

Armed police vigil after 'barbaric outrage'



The moment Policewoman Fletcher was shot... and her fiancé, Police constable Michael Liddle (far right), tends her as she lies dying

Libya embassy shoots kill policewoman

By Alan Hamilton, Stewart Tendler and John Witherow

Armed police were last night surrounding the Libyan People's Bureau in St James's Square, London, after a gunman in the building fired into a crowd of demonstrators, killing a policewoman and wounding 11 other people.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, condemned the shooting as "a most disgraceful and barbaric outrage". The British Government has protested to Libya, but Libyan radio in turn reported "a most terrible terrorist action" on the part of the British police.

As ministers and senior officials were summoned to an emergency meeting of COBRA, the special contingency unit set up to deal with serious terrorist incidents, the Prime Minister, who is on an official visit to Portugal, expressed grave concern at the shooting and offered his sympathies to the family of the dead policewoman, and her appreciation of her "great bravery".

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Richard Wells, head of Scotland Yard's press department, said the first priority of the police was "to make sure this is resolved without further bloodshed". The police did not know how many people were in the bureau, but they did not believe there were any hostages, and they also believed the gunman who opened fire was still inside the building.

Mr Wells said: "We are prepared for a long wait: time is on our side."

The police were not sure how many gunmen were in the bureau, and they were also unsure of the diplomatic status of those inside.

He said that shortly after the shooting, at 10.10am, a man was released from the building, who proved to be "a press representative", who was helping police with their inquiries.

Mr Brittan said that the main aim of the police operation was to persuade those inside the building to come out, so that it could be searched for weapons and explosives.

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A difficulty, however, is that the premises, being a diplomatic mission, is by convention protected from British law, and police may enter only by the invitation of the head of mission, or the embassy's own government.

Yesterday afternoon, hours after the shooting, police arrested six men at Heathrow airport, London, but Scotland Yard said some of those arrested had been near the incident. The arrests came soon after the Foreign Office had instructed a British Caledonian aircraft, on a scheduled flight to Tripoli, to turn back to London when it

was more than half way to its destination.

Last night three men were still being detained, but no charges had been brought.

The officer killed in the shooting was named as Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher, aged 25, based at Bow Street police station. She was taken to Westminster Hospital, but died of gunshot wounds two hours after the shooting, as surgeons fought vainly to save her life. She came from Shaftesbury, Dorset and joined the police force seven years ago.

WPC Fletcher died in an incident which began as a routine police operation to patrol what was expected to be a normal demonstration by a group of 70 Libyans, who had travelled by bus from the north of England, outside the elegant, five-storey People's Bureau, which in the confused world of Libyan politics is their equivalent of an embassy in London. Police had erected temporary barriers in the square to contain the small crowd.

The demonstrators were wearing masks and hoods and some carried banners hostile to Colonel Gaddafi. Meanwhile two other small groups, each of about 20, formed a rival demonstration, which contained peacefully by police in another part of the square.

Shortly after 10am, suddenly and without warning, a burst of machine-gun fire from a window in the building, lasting only a few seconds, exploded on the crowd beneath. Horrified bystanders saw WPC Fletcher crumple to the ground, along with several other demonstrators.

The moment of drama was captured by a film crew from the UPTN television news agency, which had been asked to cover the demonstration on



Tragic victim: WPC Yvonne Fletcher, aged 25, who died after being hit by machine-gun bullets.

Pint-size girl who fulfilled a dream

By Barbara Day

Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher had wanted to be a policewoman from the time she was three years old, her mother, Mrs Queenie Fletcher, told a press conference at Scotland Yard yesterday. But Yvonne, at only 5ft 2½ in, was too short for the force. Though turned down by the police several times, she was determined not to give up her efforts.

Her senior officer at Bow Street station, Chief Superintendent Bryan West, said that because of her determination, drive, intelligence and suitability, an exception was made to allow her to join the force despite a normal height requirement of 5ft 4 in. She was probably the smallest policewoman in the country, he said.

Yvonne, aged 25, was on duty with her fiancé, PC

Michael Liddle, also stationed at Bow Street, for the demonstration. PC Liddle saw Yvonne shot. A doctor's son from Norfolk, he joined the police in 1980. The couple were unofficially engaged.

Sitting with her husband and Yvonne's 22-year-old sister Heather, a nurse at Charing Cross Hospital, Mrs Fletcher paid a quiet tribute to her daughter's courage and determination. She described Yvonne, the eldest of four daughters, as a very happy girl.

"All I know is that she wanted to be a policewoman from the time she was three years old. She never wanted to do anything else and that was just her life. She loved it at Bow Street station. It was her second home. She just wanted

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Diplomatic status no bar to police, says Brittan

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, said last night that the machine-gun attack on Libyan demonstrators in London, which killed a young policewoman and injured 11 other people, was a "barbaric outrage" and a "murderous onslaught".

He said in radio and television interviews that the fact that the automatic fire had come from the Libyan People's Bureau would not stop the police taking action.

He said: "It is not a question of getting permission to go in. The police will not be deterred from doing their duty. Status is no pretext."

Mr Brittan took immediate charge of the St James's Square incident, moving from the Home Office to the Cabinet Office Briefing Room, known as Cobra, in the Whitehall nerve centre for all crisis planning.

Although the Home Secretary had direct responsibility for police in London, his position in command was underlined by the fact that the Prime Minister had left only hours earlier for his three-day visit to Portugal.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is in China, and Lord Whitelaw, deputy Prime Minister, was in Cumbria and it was said there were no plans for his early return.

Emerging from Cobra at about 5.30pm, he gave a series of frank interviews, in which he said: "It is a barbaric outrage and a terrible tragedy that a young policewoman should have lost her life in this way."

"There was a perfectly peaceful demonstration, fully and properly controlled by the police and from the window of the Libyan People's Bureau automatic fire commenced and 12 people were injured and one, as we have heard, died."

In another interview Mr Brittan revealed that the bureau had protested on Monday to the Foreign Office about the pro-

posed demonstration. The Home Office told the bureau that people had a right, in Britain, to demonstrate peacefully.

He also said that he could not promise a quick solution, but that police had spoken by telephone with senior accredited diplomats inside the building, and they had said they were prepared to help.

"We have now asked them to request their fellow countrymen and all in that building to come out and assist the police in

Continued on page 3, col 8

Ford profits dip after sales record

Ford car sales in Britain set a record last year, but pretax profits of £178m went down £16m in 1982.

Profits were further affected by a £245m special provision for Budget tax changes and closure costs.

Tests criticized

A former Home Office forensic scientist criticized the way the new Intoximeter breath test equipment was introduced, and the presentation of technical evidence in court.

Health experts want the Government to spend £60m tackling heart disease. They say 40,000 lives could be saved every year.

Chess victory

Niaz Murshed of Bangladesh won first prize with a score of seven points in the Young Masters International Chess Tournament at Oakham after agreeing a draw in a final round game against Igor Stohl of Czechoslovakia.

Salvadoran guerrillas killed 37 Government soldiers in an ambush on the Pan-American Highway. Such a successful attack on a military convoy may affect troop morale before the run-off presidential election on May 6.

Thatcher ideal

Mrs Thatcher, at the start of her visit to Portugal, said Britain wanted to welcome Lisbon in 1986 to an EEC reformed on the basis of fairer distribution of burdens and benefits.

Solicitors and editors are asking for the Contempt of Court Act, 1981, to be reviewed as they fear that judges are using it wrongly.

Bush in Geneva

Vice-President George Bush arrived in Geneva where he will today present an American draft treaty aimed at banning chemical weapons to the 40-nation UN conference on disarmament.

For the first time in the Olympic Games boxers will have to wear headgear.

Games headgear

Leader page 13
Letters: On the economy, from Mr P Gordon-Potts and Mr D Kingston; penal policy, from Dr S. Shaw.
Leading articles: Libyan embassy shooting; Brazilian elections; dinner ladies' pay.
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Libya: issues that can no longer be skirted; Bernard Levin on the high-voltage Bamboo Curtain; NHS high finance. Iran: the fatal mistakes.

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LIBYAN SIEGE ● Violence back in fashion ● Riddle of the London Four ● Offensive against exiles

Signs of tougher Gaddafi line on dissidents began over a year ago

By Andrew Lycett

The British authorities had ample warning that radicalism, and with it the threat of "revolutionary violence" against anti-Gaddafi dissidents, was back in fashion in Libya.

Libya has been fairly quiet in pursuing its enemies in the four years since the murder of prominent opposition figures abroad in 1980. Over the past couple of years, the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, has been more concerned to cope with the effects of cuts in oil prices and production, which more than halved Libya's income from \$20 billion (£14 billion) to \$8 billion.

But in February last year the General People's Congress, the nearest thing to a parliament in Libya, returned to the offensive,

educated at Manchester University.

The Libyan leader also introduced a new figure into his Cabinet, with a rank not known in many countries - Minister for External Security. What this minister, Colonel Yunis Bilhagazim, is supposed to do was not spelt out.

But the general emphasis was clear from his four assistants, all associated with revolutionary violence abroad - Ahmed Gaddafidam, Colonel Gaddafi's cousin and main fixer of international problems; Sayed Rashid, who was arrested last year in France for terrorist activities and was about to be extradited to Italy when he was returned to Libya in strange circumstances; and Musa Kusa, former head of the Libyan People's Bureau in London, who was asked to leave by the British Government after a spate of killings of Libyans in Britain in 1980.

The General People's Congress was accompanied by the sacking of the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli, a premeditated action which led to the rupture of diplomatic relations between the two countries and further emphasized Libya's generally poor relations at present with the rest of the Arab world.

After some moderate success in backing the opponents of Mr Yasser Arafat among the Palestinians, Colonel Gaddafi has had no luck furthering his diplomacy in Lebanon. The Shia Muslims, who have come to prominence there recently, dislike him heartily because they accuse him of abducting and murdering their spiritual leader, the Imam Musa Sadr, five years ago.

At the General People's Congress, Colonel Gaddafi, clearly fed up with gossip on these lines, spoke for the first time on the death of the Imam.

He said the Lebanese Shia leader had indeed come to Libya, but had left angrily after two days when the Libyan leader had not seen him immediately. Colonel Gaddafi countered by saying that the Imam had been an agent of the Shah. The Libyan news agency JANA quoted him as saying: "This statement might explode the situation and create uproar in Lebanon. But I am insistent on saying it, so that Libya is no longer accused of Sadr's disappearance."

"Thousands of 'Sadr' have died in Lebanon and the Arab world - why should we cry only for Musa Sadr, the agent of the Shah?"

Students take over in London

It is this atmosphere, the expected shake-up in the Libyan People's Bureaux duly took place. Towards the end of February the London bureau chief, Mr Adam Kweiri, and his cultural attaché, Mr Abdel Hamid bin Musa, were called home.

Direction of the bureau was put in the hands of a four-man committee of students with backgrounds in the Revolutionary Brigades which have waged the campaign against the dissidents abroad - Abdel Ghadir, who studied business administration in the United States and was living in Coventry; Ali Abu Jaziah, studying English in Bournemouth; and Maatooq Muhammad Maatooq, another Coventry resident.

Once installed, these four called a press conference in which they repeated their Government's threats against dissidents and accused the British authorities of harbouring enemies of the Libyan revolution.



On the battlefield: An armed policeman running for cover and a man leaving the embassy with hands up during the siege of St James's Square

Firing was ordered, protesters claim

By Richard Dowden

"We never thought they'd be crazy enough to actually do anything", a spokesman for one of the Libyan opposition groups which organized the demonstration, said yesterday.

"These people have instructions to do this back home. We would have spent an hour in front of the embassy and gone home. Our demonstration was quite peaceful."

The spokesman for the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL) did not wish to give his name. Founded in 1981, this organization has emerged as the most effective of the groups opposing Colonel Gaddafi's regime.

It is active in Britain, the United States, Morocco and Sudan, broadcasts from a radio station in Omdurman and distributes a well written magazine in English printed in Germany.

It also claims to have close links with the Libyan army, elements of which it claims have made five attempts on Gaddafi's life in the past year, although the organization itself rejects violence.

Most of the NFSL membership comes from students and professionals among Libya's 40,000 to 50,000 exiles and it stands for a democratic and non-aligned Libya.

Its general secretary and

founder is Mohammed Youssef Mugharief, who was Libyan ambassador to India.

Yesterday's demonstration was held to commemorate the deaths of three students who were hanged for protesting against Colonel Gaddafi's interference in the running of the universities in 1976. It was organized by the General Students Organization but the NFSL was one of the main contingents.

Other groups were the Libyan Constitutional Union, which stands for a return to the 1951 constitution of King Idris, the Libyan National Democratic Movement and the Libyan National League, a more conservative pro-royalist group.

Not all the groups agreed that whoever fired on the demonstrators was acting under instructions from Libya. Mr Hishan Ghaliboun, the spokesman for the Libyan Constitutional Union, said: "The five who were deported from Britain in connexion with the bombings in March were put in prison when they got back for failing to eliminate any anti-Gaddafi Libyans."

Those people in the bureau were under heavy pressure to do something. What they didn't want was to remain powerless with a demonstration going on under their noses."

Timetable of past incidents

1979 September 2: Libyan Embassy taken over by students and renamed the Peoples Bureau.

1980 February 18: Libya says opponents will be liquidated. April 11: Libyan journalist killed outside Regents Park mosque.

April 25: Libyan lawyer shot dead at Kensington home. May 13: Four Libyan diplomats expelled from Britain.

June 2: Libyan expels 20 Britons, including three diplomats.

September 17: Three Libyans jailed for life for murder in London.

November 12: Two Libyans children poisoned in Hampshire.

November 30: Libyan student stabbed to death in Manchester.

1982 November 28: Robert Maxwell, British engineer, jailed for 11 years in Tripoli for accepting bribes.

1984 February 18: Libyan students seize control of People's Bureau. March 10 - 11: Twenty-six people injured in seven bomb attacks in London and Manchester.

Mystery men at the London 'bureau'

Britain puts embassies on alert

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain's embassies overseas were on alert last night as diplomatic relations with Libya sank to a new low as a result of the shooting in St James's Square.

Particular concern was felt for the mission in Tripoli where the ambassador, Mr Oliver Miles was in constant touch with the Foreign Liaison Bureau - which is Colonel Gaddafi's name for his ministry of foreign affairs.

But relations between the two capitals have been strained and uncertain since February 18 when a group of men calling themselves the Libyan Revolutionary Students Force marched upon the embassy, or People's Bureau, on a quiet Saturday in elegant St James's Square, and seized control.

Two days later the authorities in Tripoli confirmed to Mr Miles that Mr Adem Kweiri was no longer the charge d'affaires in London, but refused to say who had taken his place.

A week later the students held a press conference at which they threatened to break off relations with Britain unless the Thatcher government changed its policies in the Middle East and in Libya in particular.

Since then the normal routine business of an embassy has continued as before, with trained Libyan diplomats continuing their work. But the Libyans have pointedly failed to identify the four-man students' committee which has technically been in charge of the bureau, leaving the Foreign Office without any charge d'affaires to deal with. Of Mr Kweiri's present whereabouts there was no word last night.

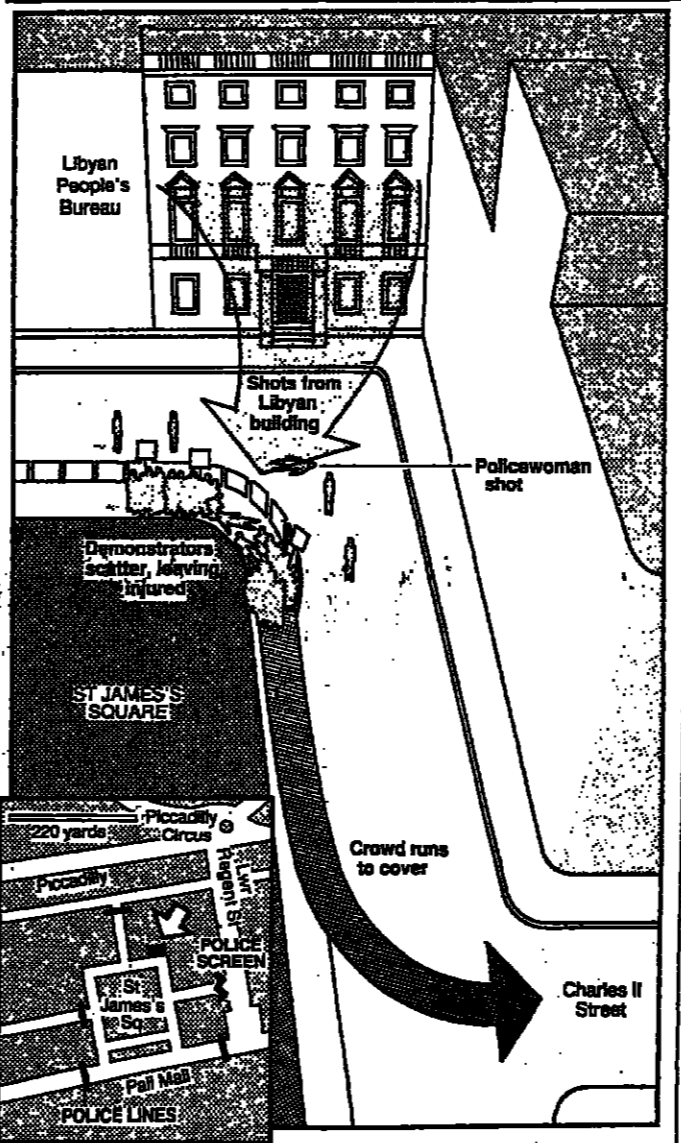
In early March Scotland Yard and the Foreign Office together warned any dissidents among the 7,000 or so Libyans living in Britain to be on their guard. A series of bomb outrages a week later then led to a strong warning from the Foreign Office that relations between the two countries could

be badly damaged unless Colonel Gaddafi gave assurances that he would do all he could to stop fighting between groups of Libyan expatriates in Britain.

Mr Miles was believed yesterday to be pressing for permission for British police to enter the St James's Square building.

As an officially recognized diplomatic mission the bureau is covered by Article 22 of the 1949 Vienna Convention which expressly states that "the premises of a mission shall be inviolable and cannot be entered by the agents of the host country 'except with the consent of the head of the mission'."

As their names have never been notified officially to the Foreign Office, the students are not recognized as diplomats enjoying the usual privilege of diplomatic immunity - unlike the 24 other names in the latest London Diplomatic List as being at the mission.



Scottish pledge to strike for miners

From David Felton, Labour Correspondent, Aberdeen

Miners yesterday won the first phase of the drive to turn the pit strike into a wider confrontation with the Government when leaders of almost a million Scottish trade unionists pledged to stage a 24 hour unlawful stoppage, probably on May day.

The call for a one-day strike and an appeal for financial help for the miners were agreed unanimously at the Scottish TUC in Aberdeen.

In an emotional debate watched by about 300 striking miners in the public gallery speaker after speaker characterized the dispute as a battle with the Government which the miners and the rest of the trade union movement could not afford to lose.

"If the miners lose the strike it will be the last strike we would fight for decades to come," Mr Jim Slater, general secretary of the National Union of Seamen, said.

The tone was set by Mr Michael McGahey, vice president of the National Union of Mineworkers, who told del-



Mr McGahey: "We will not be bought"

egates: "We are fighting for this country and we are telling this country we will not be bought off by your filthy money. We will keep our jobs and our dignity."

Many speakers urged that the one-day strike should be as wide as possible although a hint of difficulties lying ahead came from Mr Alex Kitson, deputy general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union. "We will leave it to our members' conscience and they have never been found wanting in the past," he said.

Court ban on pickets

A High Court judge in London yesterday banned South Wales miners' pickets from stopping coke lorries entering or leaving Port Talbot steelworks.

Deputy Judge Sir Douglas Frank, QC, granted two haulage companies in Gloucestershire, an injunction forbidding pickets from "stopping, approaching or in any other way interfering" with the companies' lorries. Lawyers for Richard Read Transport, of Longhope, in the

Forest of Dean, and George M. Read Transport, of Micheldean, were granted the order.

In addition to the injunction, the companies are both seeking damages against the National Union of Mineworkers.

● Nottinghamshire's 34,000 miners have voted by a majority of 80 per cent against Mr Arthur Scargill's move to lower the mandate for calling a strike from 55 per cent to a simple majority.

UK-Dutch deal on weapons

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Britain signed an agreement yesterday to buy from The Netherlands a weapons system capable of firing 70 rounds a second to defend Royal Navy ships against sea-skimming missiles such as the Exocet.

As part of the \$60m deal the Dutch are buying from Britain 16 Rolls-Royce Spey engines for eight new frigates.

In the Falklands conflict, British ships suffered from the lack of a close-in weapon system which could provide a last line of defence against missiles and enemy aircraft.

The Dutch Goalkeeper system, produced by the Signaal company, will be installed on four British Type-22 frigates and also on the new class of frigate, the Type-23.

A letter of intent signed in Amsterdam yesterday by Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, and Mr Jan van Houwelingen, his Dutch opposite number, holds out the possibility of the two countries supplying each other with more Goalkeeper systems and Spey engines.

But Mr Pattie has ambitions beyond that. He hopes to persuade the Dutch to buy another British weapon, the vertical-launched Sea Wolf missile, which will travel at more than twice the speed of sound to attack aircraft and missiles at a range of about five kilometres.

He is hoping that the Dutch can be persuaded to favour this weapon over the American vertical-launched Sea Sparrow system, which has a greater range but is slower and which, until now, the Dutch navy is thought to have favoured.

Agents lose commission on cut-price house sale

Estate agents are not entitled to their commission if they sell a house for less than the owner's asking price without first agreeing the price cut with the owner, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

In a case affecting estate agents throughout the country, two judges held that an Essex couple need not pay agents' commission on the home they sold four years ago.

When Police Sergeant Trevor Taylor, aged 30, and his wife, Sandra, aged 31, put their three-bedroom end-of-terrace home in Coolgardie Avenue, Highams Park, Chingford, Essex, in the hands of estate agents in 1980, they instructed that the selling price should be £34,500.

But, just before exchange of contracts with a buyer found by the agents, Garmans, of Highams Park, Chingford, the Taylors discovered from their solicitor that the sale had been agreed at £33,500.

After Mr Taylor struck a deal with the buyers, the sale went

through for £34,000. Because the agents had not stuck to the asking price, a county court judge at Edmonton ruled that Garmans, and their agent Mr Ronald Spiers, were not entitled to any commission.

Yesterday, an appeal by Garmans and Mr Spiers, in which they claimed they were entitled to £615 commission and contested a £50 damages award made to Mr and Mrs Taylor at the County Court, was dismissed.

Lord Justice Eveleigh, sitting with Lord Justice Stephen Brown, agreed with the county court judge who had ruled that the estate agents were "inefficient" and "negligent".

The agents, on a printed form setting their terms and conditions, agreed to advertise the Taylors' house for £34,500.

"That is a condition which has to be fulfilled as an obligation undertaken by the estate agent before he is entitled to claim his commission", Lord Justice Eveleigh said.

Airport 'poll tax' threat

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

A £15 "poll tax" on passengers using Heathrow airport, London for domestic flights is being considered by the Government as a way of reducing traffic at the overloaded airport.

It would raise fares from places such as Glasgow, Belfast and Manchester by about a quarter and would bring protests from British Midland Airways and British Airways, whose "Super Shuttle" would be seriously affected.

British Rail would benefit as passengers won by domestic airlines in recent years came back.

The tax is one of several possible steps in a government

consultation paper to be published shortly on how to keep Heathrow flights within an annual limit of 275,000, due to come into effect when the new £200m Terminal Four opens.

Others include restrictions on domestic and private flights to leave more scope for the international flights which are considered both by the Government and the British Airports Authority to be more important for Heathrow.

Mr Michael Bishop, chairman of British Midland, the leading independent domestic operator to Heathrow said yesterday that the measures would force his company to reconsider its entire future.

Makers buy back own porcelain

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Christie's was selling porcelain and house linen designed by Peter Behrens, one of the twentieth century's most celebrated German architects, yesterday.

His 1920s building for the electricity board in Berlin was a model solution to the problem of designing for the comfort of humans as well as the efficiency of machines, but he had dabbled in domestic design for a friend who was getting married.

The geometric patterned porcelain dinner service was mostly bought yesterday by the company which made it in 1901, Gebrüder Baensch of Weiden - the German equivalent of Wedgwood.

The company paid £1,738 (estimate £1,600 to £2,000) for 12 plates and £1,512 (estimate £1,200 to £1,800) for three hexagonal serving dishes.

A private collector outside the company on a pair of two-handled serving dishes, and some mixed lots of plates were unsold.

Refund pledge by Sainsbury

J. Sainsbury, the supermarket chain is to give refunds to customers who return its own-label frozen beefburgers after the discovery that supplies from Henry Telfer Ltd departed from Sainsbury's specification.

An anonymous letter from Telfer's factory in Northampton, drew Sainsbury's attention to the fact that Telfer had been using a cheaper emulsifier agent than that specified by Sainsbury.

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● Brittan's outrage

● Blood ran on a sunny day

● Policewoman shot down

LIBYAN SIEGE



Death on duty: Police colleagues rushing to the aid of policewoman, Yvonne Fletcher shortly after the shooting in St James's Square

Eyewitnesses describe burst of gunfire that cleared square

By Jenny Knight

Eyewitnesses who heard the burst of gunfire and saw wounded people drop to the ground later described the scene.

Television advertising film maker Mr Ray Barker, aged 46, said: "I was watching the demonstrations from the third floor window of an office block in St James's Square, about 30 feet away from the students. The police had prepared for the demonstration very carefully. That end of the square had been cleared. Cars had been moved and they had erected crash barriers along the pavement."

"At about 10 o'clock the students arrived. They wore scarves and head dresses in the Arab style. They carried banners proclaiming 'Gaddafi hangs students'. They were shepherded on the pavement between the railings of the park and barriers on the pavement opposite the embassy. On the other side of the road was a counter demonstration by what I took to be pro-Gaddafi supporters. It was very small - perhaps a dozen people."

"After about five minutes there was a sudden burst of gunfire - it went on for nearly 10 seconds. I assumed it came from the road because the embassy's windows are barred and shuttered, with heavy grills covering plate glass. It all happened very quickly."

"I saw the policewoman fall and several of the students behind her fall as well. Within seconds her white shirt turned to red with blood. I saw her little cap lying in the road. It was a pathetic sight. There was a splattering of blood a few yards away."

"Some policemen vaulted the barriers to run to her aid, and

were running to take up positions covering the building and pointing pistols. The scene there was just like a battlefield with dressings covering the pavement and two ambulances trying desperately to get out through the crowds. The officers carried the woman police constable to nearby Charles II Street to await an ambulance. She looked in a grave way, ashen white with her eyes closed."

'I could not believe this was in London - it was unreal'

"Reinforcements were on the scene within minutes. The police did not fire a single shot. All this that happened in front of my eyes is still difficult to comprehend. On a sunny day in the centre of London it was pure madness. It was just an insignificant little demonstration."

Mr Brian Cartmell, a journalist, said: "I arrived with my son Gary, aged 21, to attend a meeting in the square. As I paid the cab driver off I could see two groups of foreign students or demonstrators, some wearing masks. A ring of police had two of the factions surrounded. As I walked towards a sergeant and a policeman to ask if I could have permission to walk through the square, what seemed like a firecracker exploded in the left-hand side of the square. I saw the bullets hit the pavement and realised it was small arms fire."

"The policewoman, 15 feet in front of me, crumbled to the floor clutching her lower stomach and groin, and rolled on to her right-hand side with a

look of total surprise on her pretty face. The policewoman's hat rolled slowly into the gutter while three or four officers shouting 'My God' ran past me to her assistance. Another officer pulled me to the side of the pavement."

"The Arab demonstrators on my left seemed to recognise the small arms fire very quickly and fled from the square. English bystanders did not react as quickly - until a police officer ran towards them shouting: 'That's a real live machine gun with real live bullets. Get to hell out of the square, and do it now.'"

"The whole square seemed to explode at that time with running people and we fled dodging behind cars."

Advertising executive Mr Dave Robson, who was in a nearby office, helped care for a shocked policeman after the incident.

He said: "He seemed terribly upset. I don't think he was injured. Just shocked. We offered him a drink and put him in our boardroom. Then a detective came in and helped to take him to an ambulance."

Miss Joan Bailey, an Edgware librarian, saw the shooting from the top floor of the London Library building overlooking the square while she was taking a coffee break.

She said: "There had been a terrific police presence since early in the morning, and there was a line of police keeping the demonstrators away from the embassy. Then there was a very loud noise which at first I thought was fireworks."

"Then I realised it was gunfire as I saw a policewoman go down. Police came rushing to

her, helmets flying. One minute the square was full of people and police and the next everyone had melted away into doorways and out of the square. I could not believe this was happening in London. It seemed unreal."

Mr Richard Bowden, a salesman, aged 31 from Aldershot, was on his way to his office, two doors from the embassy. "The demonstrators were chanting 'Gaddafi kills students' in Arabic - I speak the language. Suddenly there was a bang like fireworks going off and people were on the ground covered in blood. I saw the WPC fall with a shot through the stomach."

He ducked into his office and moments later a demonstrator with a gunshot wound in his chest was helped into the building.

'Within seconds her white shirt turned to red with blood'

Bricklayer, Mr Dean Bowman was coming out of a cafe opposite the embassy. "I noticed a window on the second floor being opened and then there was a quick burst of gunfire. Everyone in the demonstration dropped to the ground. They were all wearing balaclavas. Some were hit and they were dragged off by their friends."

Miss Jennifer Bowman, aged 26, who works for our advertising agency in the square, said: "The shots came from an upper window of the bureau. Someone stuck a submachine gun out and sprayed into the crowd. It was quite a short burst."



A policeman tending to an injured, hooded demonstrator in St James's Square

Phone link to Libyans as SAS stands by

Continued from page 1

behalf of a number of Arab television stations. Viewers to lunchtime news bulletins in Britain saw WPC Fletcher fall to the ground, pale and writhing in agony.

WPC Fletcher and the other wounded were immediately dragged from the crowd, and taken to safety round the corner out of the line of fire. All were taken to Westminster Hospital, where roads were cleared to give free access to the approaching convoy of ambulances. Last night nine of the wounded were still in hospital, and five were reported in serious condition.

Immediately after the shooting police cars and ambulances raced across London to the scene, seriously disrupting traffic, and a police helicopter hovered over the scene. The building was surrounded by armed officers, and police cleared the immediate areas, evacuating office workers from adjoining buildings. People in a bank next to the bureau were got out by being taken to the roof, then led down a fire escape, out of sight of the bureau.

The first armed officers on the scene were members of the 300-member Diplomatic Patrol Group, whose red cars and vans could be seen in the square blocking the road, or offering cover for men armed with hand guns. By mid-afternoon, several dozen other officers were on roofs looking down on the bureau, their revolvers propped up at arms' length, ready to fire.

Many officers wore flak jackets, and gathered round the bureau, their guns holstered by their sides. Members of D-11, Scotland Yard's firearms training department which also provides marksmen, arrived from their base in Essex in an unmarked van. They were later seen on roofs watching the

bureau and assessing the situation.

Minutes after the shooting a single figure, middle aged and wearing an anorak, was seen to emerge from the door of the bureau. On instructions from the police loudhailer, he raised his arms, and was led away.

Specialist listening equipment and cameras were placed pointing towards the bureau by a number of technicians, who earlier this week were on duty for the trial of Michael Bettaney at the Central Criminal Court, checking for microphones or other attempts to eavesdrop the secret trial. Technicians work for Special Branch or MI5, whose officers were on the scene.

By mid-afternoon police, following established tactics for dealing with a siege, had established a telephone line into the bureau, but would not say whom they had spoken to, or the nature of the discussions. Later in the day *The Times* telephoned the building, and were answered by a man who confirmed that it was the bureau, but would not identify himself and would give no further details.

In Apple Tree Yard, at the rear of the bureau, a police jacket had been thrown over the Libyans' own close-circuit security television system, and officers were on guard, including one crouching with a sub-machine gun.

By that time stage almost every building in the vicinity had been evacuated, although some members of St James's club were still being allowed into their premises. Diners to the Travelers' and the Reform clubs has to make a detour through Carlton Gardens, because Pall Mall was closed.

Members of the 22nd Special Air Services Regiment were believed to have been placed on standby shortly after the shoot-

ing. The regiment has special equipment and men constantly available at its Hereford headquarters in mainland Britain.

Last night their reports that an SAS liaison officer had been to the scene around the bureau to discuss the situation with police. In 1980 the SAS stormed the Iranian Embassy, freeing hostages and killing all but one of a group of Arab terrorists. In that case, police and the Government may think long and hard before committing either the police or the SAS to attacking the building, since there are apparently no hostages.

The Libyan news agency, Jaha, monitored in Paris, accused the British Government of having organized "an ignoble armed attack" on its embassy in London.

"Backed by a helicopter, British secret service agents and by Libyans and foreigners, the police launched an assault... firing on employees of the bureau and arresting some of them", the agency said.

"Faced with this orchestrated operation, the employees of the bureau were forced to defend themselves and the People's Bureau."

The bureau has led a chequered career in recent years. Several years ago one Libyan diplomat was expelled after condoning the death of several Libyan exiles, and promising that more killing would come.

Some months ago the bureau was the centre of an internal dispute, in which a group of Libyans was ousted from the premises by another group, promising fresh revolutionary fervour.

Brittan acts after 'outrage'

Continued from page 1

dealing with this matter", Mr Brittan said.

"We do not know exactly who is there. We know that a certain number of people who do not normally work there have diplomatic status. We also know that there may very well be other people in that building who do not have diplomatic status."

Mrs Thatcher, who was informed of the incident in flight, said in an Independent Television News interview from Lisbon: "I am gravely concerned about the death of the young woman police constable. I want to express my sympathy to her family and also to express appreciation at her bravery and the bravery of those who served with her."

"We are deeply concerned about the injuries which are being caused."

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats and a former Foreign Secretary, said in a BBC radio interview: "Obviously, we cannot allow the streets of London to become a terrorist battleground."

"We know, however, that we are dealing with an extraordinarily temperamental leader in Gaddafi, we are dealing with the most volatile and unstable government."

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Leader, sent his condolences to the family of the dead policewoman (the Press Association reports).

He said: "The people of London and Britain will join with us in condemning this shocking act of violence and in calling on the Prime Minister to tell the Libyan government in the firmest terms that our country is not to be regarded as a battleground for anybody's factions."



The victim's family: Mr Tim Fletcher, his wife Queenie, and daughter Heather.

Girl whose dream came true

Continued from page 1 to serve the community and help other people. "If anything ever happened to her, she used to say, it was just her work."

Superintendent West, a voice faltering with emotion, read out a prepared statement about what he called the most devastating day he had ever had to face in his 28 years in the police service.

He said: "Yvonne was stationed for all her seven years in the police service at Bow Street, which is one of the most demanding areas for police work in the whole country. She was one of my most experienced constables."

"She was an officer who could turn her hand to any kind of police work. She was a fully trained and mature professional police officer, the kind who make up the backbone of the service. Anyone would have been proud to have her as a member of a team."

"She did her job willingly and with a high degree of professional ability. Policing was all she ever wanted to do, and she was a credit to the community she served. It is therefore all the more poignant that this valuable public servant should have lost her life so tragically. She was a super girl, a bundle of energy, a diamond."

Yvonne had been involved in the training of new recruits at Bow Street, he added, and he hoped her spirit would live on through their work. He described the atmosphere at Bow Street station as not one of anger but devastation.

Village mourns: WPC Fletcher was mourned yesterday by villagers at Semley, near Shaftesbury, Dorset, who recalled her as a tomboy whose heart had always been set on a police career. She attended the village school, then went on to Gillingham Comprehensive, where she excelled at sports, especially judo and karate.

WPC died after one hour's surgery

By Sheila Beardsall

A spokesman at Westminster Hospital said WPC Yvonne Fletcher died at about midday of gunshot wounds to the stomach after surgery lasting an hour.

She was visited by her boyfriend, also a police officer, but no relatives were at her bedside.

One demonstrator was discharged with a minor leg injury. He left the hospital with his yellow anorak pulled over his head and was escorted by a policeman and quickly driven away.

All the remaining demonstrators in the hospital underwent surgery. Five had serious injuries, and one was still in intensive care last night. Four received minor injuries but were being detained in hospital overnight.

Police have been questioning some of the injured. Mr Julian Nettel, the administrator, said the hospital, which had dealt with the injured from the Harrods bombing, had coped well with the emergency. However extra blood supplies and dressings had had to be brought in.

£60m programme urged to save 40,000 heart victims a year

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Forty thousand heart disease deaths a year could be prevented, a group of health experts say. They urged the Government yesterday to spend £60m on a series of measures.

They want changes in the nation's diet, better food in schools and workplaces, no cigarette advertising and improved food labelling.

Coronary heart disease claims more than 150,000 British lives each year, a death every three or four minutes. The total could be reduced by 40,000 in ten years, Professor Geoffrey Rose said on behalf of the committee which compiled the *Plans for Action* report, published yesterday.

The report summarizes the findings of a conference of health professionals in Canterbury last September. Their work was sponsored by the British Cardiac Society, the Coronary Prevention Group, the Department of Health and Social Security, and the Health Education Council.

The group recommends a

national policy for the prevention of heart disease, with both the Department of Health and the National Health Service tackling prevention as "a major priority". In a five-year programme, £12m would be needed each year.

Family doctors and other health workers such as nurses, dentists, and dietitians, should accept "their important responsibilities" especially over smoking, obesity, diet and high blood pressure.

Professor Michael Oliver, president of the British Cardiac Society, said doctors should break free from a "narrow professionalism" and do more for health education. "The medical profession has to reexamine responsibilities towards prevention", he said.

The Ministry of Agriculture should oppose elements of the common agricultural policy which run counter to a healthy food policy, the report says.

These include the European Community's proposals to raise the prescribed fat content of

milk. The present consumer subsidy on butter should be removed, to make butter dearer in shops, and the EEC should stop buying skimmed milk under its intervention programme.

"At least 75 per cent of food is processed or manufactured before it reaches the consumer", the report says. "If the Ministry of Agriculture can work effectively with the food processing industry it can profoundly affect most of the food entering consumption."

Food labelling "should be improved as a matter of urgency" with, for example, a "traffic light" system showing high, medium or low fat in brands of sausages.

"Description and labelling of foods must be informative enough to allow the consumer to select intelligently", the report says. A change in grading standards for meat carcasses is also recommended.

The report also calls for higher tobacco tax, a ban on all cigarette advertising,



Princess Alexandra, who presented the television and radio awards, Frank Bough, newscaster presenter of the year (centre) and Michael Aspel, who won the personality award (Photographs: Suresh Karadia)



Policy 'may halve bus services'

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Nearly half Britain's town and country buses could disappear if the Government pursues a "free market" policy in the provision of local bus services, a new study from Leeds University and the National Bus Company said yesterday.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, has promised a policy statement later in the spring which is expected to propose widespread deregulation and competition in an industry which is still extensively regulated, ostensibly in the public interest.

Evening and weekend services would be particularly vulnerable under such a policy

and could largely disappear in many places. Many rural routes could also go and those in the suburbs of towns and cities. But passengers could expect a greater variety of services on dense routes and in peak hours with fares possibly reduced by between a third and a half.

The report finds that internal cross-subsidy by peak services supporting off-peak ones and dense routes supporting less dense routes on Britain's bus routes amounts to about £1,500m a year, three times the operating subsidies provided by central and local government.

Cross-subsidies have tra-

ditionally been regarded as valuable in maintaining comprehensive networks and timetables but are coming under increasing attack from the Government's "market" approach.

A free-for-all in the bus industry would allow newcomers to enter profitable routes at lower fares and force established operators to cut cross-subsidies to compete.

Cross Subsidies in Urban Bus Operations, National Bus Company and Institute for Transport Studies, Leeds University. (Public Affairs department, NBC 172 Buckingham Palace Road, London E5.)

BBC scoops awards

Terry Wogan and Michael Aspel were named television personalities of the year when the Television and Radio Industries Club presented its annual awards in London yesterday.

Frank Bough, David Coleman and John Dunn were also among the winners, helping the BBC to take eight of the 13 radio and television awards.

Mr Wogan was named BBC personality for his chat shows and *Blankety-Blank*. While Mr Aspel won the independent personality award for his Friday evening *Six O'Clock Show* on London Weekend Television.

Breakfast Time's Frank Bough was voted newscaster presenter of the year and John Dunn picked up his second award in two months as radio personality. David Coleman was named top sports presenter. George Cole and Dennis Waterman accepted the award for *Minder*, named independent television's best programme.

Last of the Summer Wine won the award as best BBC television programme. The BBC also took the situation comedy award for the popular series, *Only Fools and Horses*. *Relly, Ace Of Spies* had the best theme music, according to the club.

Scientist criticizes Intoximeter review

From Pearce Wright, Science Editor, Exeter

An expert analytical chemist, who also describes himself as the Don Quixote among forensic scientists, yesterday levelled serious charges about the way technical evidence is presented in court when he addressed the annual congress of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Mr Henry Bland, a Home Office expert for 18 years who is now private consultant for defendants, condemned among other things the way the new Intoximeter breath testing machine was introduced by the Government. He also cited specific instances of incorrect evidence by Home Office forensic experts in support of prosecutions brought by the police.

Mr Bland said the review proposed of the new machine did not go far enough. Every case in which it was used should be accompanied automatically over the next six months by a blood or urine analysis. That should be conducted under the scrutiny of an independent and publicly accountable professional body such as the Royal Society of Chemistry. The results over the period should be published.

Mr Bland said the introduction of the breath test using instruments which measured the difference in infra-red absorption between a sample of air and breath provoked public concern because those instruments had not been fully evaluated in the eyes of the public.

Mr Bland said the manufacturers had been unwilling to allow anybody to examine the instruments in detail on the grounds of commercial confidentiality.

Defendants were being found guilty on the evidence of a black box, he said. The results the black boxes produced could not be confirmed by forensic scientists. He criticized the machines on three counts: Specificity, calibration and accuracy.

The first referred to the fact that all volatile compounds in the breath, including vinegar on your chips, were measured with the alcohol. Mr Bland said that calibration was not altogether satisfactory. There had been recent reports that the individual who calibrated machines was unhappy because after the test when a machine broke down it was repaired, but not always recalibrated, although it carried a certificate.

On accuracy, he said if there was any trace of alcohol in the mouth a high reading might be obtained. Tests had shown that alcohol in the mouth was dispersed in under 10 minutes in all test cases, however hiccuping could reintroduce alcohol back into the mouth. Under those circumstances, the tests were subject to uncontrollable inaccuracies.

Other difficulties in forensic science arose when opinions were given on limited or insufficient knowledge, Mr Bland said.

Foot police 'do not cut crime'

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

Putting more policemen back on the beat - the conventional wisdom of recent years - does little to reduce crime, according to a Home Office study. The study says that a policeman patrolling on foot in London could expect to pass within a hundred yards of a burglary only once every eight years. Interviews with burglars and other criminals suggest they do not think more foot patrolling increases their chances of detection.

More policemen, it has found, make the public feel safer but do not seem to lead to any reductions in crime. According to Dr Ronald Clarke and Mr Mike Hough, who are civil servants and authors of the study *Crime and Police Effectiveness*, the best way of cutting crime rates is to try to reduce opportunities - for example by controlling alcohol at football matches, marking personal property, installing caretakers in flats, closed circuit television surveillance and other "situational" measures.

Crime and Police Effectiveness by Ronald Clarke and Mike Hough (Stationery Office, £3.40).

Editor's dismissal was unfair

Lady Waller, the newspaper editor who was dismissed after taking an unofficial day off, was unfairly dismissed, an industrial tribunal ruled in Norwich yesterday.

The tribunal said, however, that Lady Waller, former editor of the *Waveney District Advertiser* based at Lowestoft, Suffolk, contributed "to a large extent to her own dismissal."

Because of her "blameworthy behaviour" the tribunal concluded it would not be right to order Lady Waller, aged 40, to be reinstated and any compensation award should be reduced by 75 per cent. The two sides have been given six weeks to agree on a remedy, failing which a settlement will be made at another hearing.

During the original five-day hearing it was claimed that Lady Waller, of Leman Road, Gorleston, Norfolk, the former wife of the poet, Sir John Weller, had been the worse for drink at editorial conferences and was often difficult to locate after lunch.

The tribunal ruled that while some of her behaviour had been blameworthy the company had acted "unreasonably in treating her conduct as a sufficient reason for dismissing her."

Contempt Act protest by lawyers and editors

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent
The Law Society and the Guild of British Newspaper Editors have asked the Lord Chancellor for an "urgent and thorough" overhaul of the working of the Contempt of Court Act, 1981.

They say they are "increasingly concerned" about the way judges use powers under the Act to postpone press reports of trials.

They are "dismayed" that since the Act came into force, 80 such orders have been made at the Central Criminal Court alone. The number of orders outside London is not known but the "impression is that they are by no means infrequent."

In a letter to the Lord Chancellor, Mr Mark Barrington-Ward, chairman of the two organizations' joint committee, and Mr Peter Carter-Ruck, vice-chairman, say the Act seems to have changed the courts' attitude to their powers.

Previously the power was used mostly with restraint and to an extent regarded as acceptable.

Since then this restraint seems to have been abandoned," they say.

Mr Carter-Ruck, a leading libel lawyer, said: "You can get a case where a man is convicted of rape, and because a second rape charge is pending, publication of the man's name is stopped."

Then he is acquitted on the second charge but the first case is by then stale and the public may hear only that he has been acquitted."

This initiative coincides with a High Court test case on the banning powers being brought by the National Union of Journalists with the backing of the National Council for Civil Liberties today.

The union is seeking leave to apply for a judicial review of a Central Criminal Court case in which a judge stopped publication of a witness's name on the ground that she had been a heroin addict and publicity would affect her fragile condition.

New turn in battle for brewery

The battle for control for Theakston's, the Yorkshire brewery known for its high strength Old Peculier beer, took a new turn in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Harman ruled that Mr Paul Theakston, the brewery chairman, was not bound by any agreement to sell his two million shares to the Blackthorn-based brewery group, Matthew Brown and Company.

Mr Theakston is backing a takeover bid by Matthew Brown, which has offered 71p a share, and he is accused of breach of company rules by entering into an agreement with the company.

But the judge said he had done nothing wrong because the agreement did not bind him to sell his shares.

The court action was instigated by William Grant and Sons, the family company famed for its Glenfiddich whisky which is making a rival bid. Its highest offer of 88p a share is favoured by other directors, including another member of the Theakston family, Mr Michael Theakston.

The judge dismissed the action and now the takeover battle resumes.

PC shot after £24,000 bank robbery

A policeman was shot and wounded when he tried to stop two robbers outside the National Westminster Bank in Golders Green Lane, north London, yesterday morning.

Police Constable Howard Jobson, aged 23, was taken to hospital with a gunshot wound and a broken leg.

The two robbers, armed with handguns, had snatched £24,000 being delivered by security men when PC Jobson and a colleague saw them. There was a struggle, during which PC Jobson was shot, and the robbers escaped.

They forced a woman out of an Audi car and hijacked it, then switched to a Capri, which they abandoned later.

One of the robbers was wearing a blue crash helmet.

Aircraft debris misses people by inches

Houses and cars were damaged and people ran for cover yesterday as pieces from what was believed to be a Boeing aircraft fell on an area of Berkshire.

Mr John Hodder, of Hurst, near Wokingham, said he and his son James, aged 13, missed death by inches when chunks of aluminium metal fell from the skies around them.

One piece landed on the roof of his house, making a 3ft hole. Other bits landed on cars and gardens nearby.

A spokesman for the British Airports Authority at Heathrow said that a Pan American jumbo jet took off from Heathrow at lunchtime and

returned shortly after, with one engine shut down.

He would not comment on the cause of the fault or if the debris in Berkshire was connected with the plane. He also refused to confirm or deny reports that a jumbo aircraft had landed at the airport minus an engine cowl. Investigations into the incident were underway, he said.

Mr Hodder said: "I was working outside just after midday when I heard a terrific crashing noise. I looked up and saw dozens of pieces of metal falling down. Suddenly there was another crash and a piece slammed onto my roof."

"It made a big hole and then tumbled onto the ground. It was

green and covered in oil. The pieces must have come from a plane because they look crumpled and jagged."

Adam Knights, aged 13, who lives next door to Mr and Mrs Hodder, said that one of the pieces of debris bounced off his mother's car, leaving a large dent and scratching the paintwork. He dived for cover as the debris fell.

"About ten large pieces of metal spread over several gardens around and some more landed on the golf course behind us", he said.

Ambulance and fire brigade controls in Berkshire were alerted with calls about the incident.

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Pakistan accused by Indian press of training Sikh rebels

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The Indian Government is taking seriously allegations that Pakistan may be involved in training guerrillas. The Home Minister, Mr P. C. Sethi, told the Lok Sabha (the lower house of Parliament) that the Research and Analysis Wing of the Cabinet Secretariat, India's equivalent of the CIA, has been asked to verify the links between extremists and foreign agencies. Newspapers have been claiming that an international "hit squad" has been approached to carry out assassinations of leading Indian political figures. The targets would include Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, her son, Rajiv, two opposition leaders most prominent in denunciation of the Sikh agitators, Mr Charan Singh and Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and

the two most senior intelligence figures in the country. Newspapers also claimed that some Pakistanis dressed as Sikhs have been found in India among the Sikh warriors class, the Nihangs. A number of arrested Nihangs were found to have been circumcised (Muslims are circumcised but Sikhs and Hindus are not). Allegations yesterday have become even more far-fetched. According to one report, a Pakistani general, whose name is given only as Iqbal, has crossed the border into India and is masterminding the Sikh rebel strategy. Evidence for the theory of an external military mastermind is held to be found in the well-organized and coordinated way in which recent attacks have been carried out, most notably the weekend fire storm on 37



Washington dove: Vice-President George Bush arrives in Geneva for talks on a treaty banning chemical weapons.

Bush ready to unveil chemical arms ban

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

An American draft treaty to ban chemical weapons worldwide is being presented in the 40-nation United Nations conference on disarmament today by Vice-President George Bush, who arrived here yesterday.

In its 10-week spring session, the conference so far has failed to achieve any tangible progress on controlling chemical, nuclear, radiological or anti-satellite weapons. It has been marking time ever since Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, announced in

Stockholm in mid-January that the Administration was putting forward a convention for "complete and verifiable elimination of chemical weapons".

The most opportune moment came last month, after official American condemnation of Iraq for using chemical weapons in the Gulf war, followed by the confirmation report from the group of experts sent to Iran.

At that moment in the initial wave of international revulsion at the Iraqi's action, it would have been less easy for the Russians to assert in advance

that the United States draft had become mixed up with the Administration's election strategy.

The crux remains inspection for verifying compliance with a ban. While Moscow is now prepared to accept the "permanent presence" of international inspectors during destruction of chemical munitions at designated sites, it rejects as "excessively intrusive" the concept of ad hoc visits under the inspection-by-challenge principle.

● MOSCOW: Tass yesterday condemned the US draft treaty on chemical weapons (Reuter reports). It said President Reagan was only pretending that the draft treaty offered a way of banning chemical warfare.

"In fact, Washington's initiative has nothing to do with this at all. Its purpose is to block efforts to reach any agreement by putting forward obviously unacceptable conditions and to camouflage plans for building US chemical arsenals," Tass said.

Dubcek fall celebrated by regime in Prague

Prague (AFP) - The Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party met here yesterday, 15 years to the day since Mr Alexander Dubcek was replaced by Mr Gustave Husak as Secretary-General.

The party newspaper, *Rude Prava*, devoted a whole page to the anniversary of the end of what the West called the Prague Spring. Mr Husak was described as a "communist with principles, a passionate patriot and internationalist who has always been on the side of working class without fear or regret".

● MOSCOW: In an article marking the overthrow of Mr Dubcek, *Pravda* said his brief rule had demonstrated the threat to ruling parties from "internal reactionary groups", and showed they must always remain loyal to orthodox communist ideology. (Reuter reports)

The Russian intervention in August, 1968, had shown that Moscow and its allies would not "leave a country in need" of Soviet-style communist rule was under threat. "Nobody will be allowed to turn back the wheel of history," *Pravda* said.

Battle rages on for control of Khmer camp

Ban Sangae, Thai-Cambodian border (AFP) - The battle for the headquarters of Cambodia's main non-communist resistance group is not over yet.

Guerrillas were digging in at this resistance enclave yesterday to resist an expected further Vietnamese onslaught. Contrary to earlier reports, the Vietnamese have not yet seized or destroyed the camp itself.

However, they have broken the forward defence lines of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, led by Son Sann. The guerrillas, after falling back under heavy artillery barrages on Sunday, have dug in close to the Vietnamese. At some points the two forces are no more than 200 yards apart.

● PEKING: China yesterday reported fresh border clashes with Vietnam and said at least 26 Vietnamese troops were killed or wounded (Reuter reports). The official New China news agency said three clashes took place along the border of China's southern Guangxi region between April 9 and 12.

Mainland tie losing support Poll highlights Zanzibar unrest

By Leslie Plummer

Zanzibar's one-candidate presidential election on April 19 seems unlikely to solve political unrest on the island where a confused and cynical populace has so far this year seen top ministers purged, several leading figures detained, an influx of mainland Tanzanian troops and an extra invasion of shadowy plainclothes security men.

The lone candidate is Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the 59-year-old interim President, who is a former school teacher, ambassador and Cabinet minister. He has increased the minimum wage by 25 per cent in the election run-up and is touring the island exhorting audiences to resist what he calls internal and external enemies of the 20-year-old union with Tanzania.

But the secret police are omnipresent, surprise raids continue - albeit with a lighter touch - on the homes of suspected dissidents and suspicion of the authorities remains rife on an island long susceptible to intrigue.

Mail is vetted and internal surveillance has increased since Mr Saleh Ameir, a senior Zanzibar security officer, visited Britain late last year for training in telephone-bugging and medium-range recording equipment which were shipped

back to the island, a knowledgeable and independent source told *The Times*.

Assessments of popular support in Zanzibar for secession from the union are varied, although there is undeniably wide opposition to continuing on the present terms; and February's political purge has failed to quell this sentiment.

The political crisis climaxed in early February when President Aboud Jumbe, of Zanzibar who is also Vice-President of Tanzania, resigned after six days of heated criticism at an emergency meeting of the ruling party's national executive in the official Tanzanian capital Dodoma.

Mr Jumbe was apparently caught between two groups of opponents.

On one hand, a faction of the old guard with some allies among junior ministers accused him of sacrificing the island's economic and political interests to those of the mainland.

On the other hand, many party colleagues at the national meeting criticized him for failing to crack down on his old guard, with the so-called committee of 14 at its core. Some accused him of working with some of these elements. These entrenched interests

make up only part of the autonomist movement in Zanzibar but the old guard has sought to use the movement to shore up its power, which has been fading since it overthrew the Sultan of Zanzibar in 1964 and ruled supreme with Abeid Amani Karume, the island's first President, until his assassination in 1972.

With Mr Jumbe out of the way, the process of moving his men from key posts began immediately.

Mr Bashir Abassah Kway-Swazi, the Zanzibar Attorney-General, and his predecessor, Mr Wolfgang Dourado, were arrested. Mr Jumbe's Chief Minister, Brigadier Ramadhan Haji Faki, and Mr Aboud Taib, a Minister of State, were forced to resign. Brigadier Haji was put under house arrest.

Mr Dourado, a lawyer trained at the Middle Temple, is still being held in Dar es-Salaam facing possible treason charges.

Mr Dourado argues that the 1964 Zanzibar-Tanganyika Articles of Union envisaged an equal federation rather than a union in which the 500,000 Zanzibaris would inevitably be subordinate to 18 million Tanzanians and he is now a leading advocate of autonomy.

Purchase of £4.6m jet defended by Premier

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

The Queensland Government, led by the redoubtable Mr Joh Bjelke-Petersen, is to buy a \$A7.5m (£4.6m) Hawker-Siddeley 125-800 eight-seater executive jet aircraft, which the Premier will fly occasionally.

The addition of the British-made jet will bring the Queensland Government's fleet to five aircraft. It is expected to take delivery next year of a \$A4m Lear Jet which it ordered two years ago. It already has two Beechcraft Air Kings, a Cessna and a helicopter.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen, aged 73, who has been flying for 34 years, yesterday defended the

Cabinet decision to buy the aircraft.

Mr Keith Wright, the state opposition leader, said that the Premier had a serious obligation to justify the huge outlay. "He owes it to the public. The Government says it does not have money for roads or housing or additional teachers, nurses or police, yet splurges \$A7.5m on a nice new jet."

An irritated Mr Bjelke-Petersen, when asked if the money could have been better spent, said: "There's no need for me to justify. I am not as stupid as that. I know there is a real need for it."

Brunette and sniffer dogs guard Prince Andrew

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Flanked by a heavy contingent of US Secret Service agents, including an attractive young brunette assigned to be one of his bodyguards who drew a great deal of attention from television and press photographers, Prince Andrew spent Monday promoting British products, inspecting aircraft and reminiscing about Gordonstoun.

Although his visit is described as private, there are almost as many bodyguards as photographers dogging his footsteps in security-conscious California. He got off to a late start because police with a dog

trained to sniff out explosives spent an hour making sure a hotel was safe before he arrived for a breakfast to boost Britain in a Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce promotion fortnight. At McDonnell Douglas aircraft company in Long Beach, he showed great interest in a new helicopter which will be used by police and the military at this summer's Olympic Games.

Although fascinated by Howard Hughes' Spruce Goose, the largest seaplane ever built, with a 320ft wingspan, he refused to try the pilot's seat for size.

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SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Sabotage in Nicaragua leads CIA into congressional minefield

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

It was December when President Reagan authorized the Central Intelligence Agency to place small, magnetic mines in the principal harbours of Nicaragua. The CIA directed the operation from a small ship in the Pacific, just beyond the 12-mile limit.

From there Latin American commandos, trained by the CIA, went on mining missions. They were successful. Soon, the first ship hit a mine - a Soviet tanker on its way to Puerto Dandino of the Pacific coast. Three of four seamen were injured and Russian protests quickly flowed thick and heavy.

The CIA had also directed mining in the Pacific port of Corinto, Nicaragua's main oil depot, and at El Bluff on the Atlantic. According to the Nicaraguans, several of its nationals died during mine-sweeping operations in Corinto, the most important of the three ports.

Corinto is an impoverished village several hours' drive from Managua. On the way one passes a few Soviet field hospitals but, as in all of Nicaragua, the Russian presence is not flaunted. In Corinto the poverty is grotesque. This is where late last year several huge oil storage tanks along the waterfront blew up, scattering jagged chunks of metal over the village.

The explosion wiped out between a third and a half of

Nicaragua's oil reserves and the government-controlled press declared the following day: "CIA attacks Corinto". The Americans never denied involvement.

Now that CIA participation in the laying of harbour mines near Corinto is public knowledge, few people seriously doubt that the agency also had a hand in the Corinto oil tank operation.

It was the most devastating single act of sabotage against the Sandinista regime, carried out with precision from a small craft that made good its escape northwards, towards Honduras. Witnesses told me in Corinto the day after the attack that they had seen what looked like mortars, but operated from the shoulder, being fired at the tanks from the craft. A little earlier a small spotter-plane had circled the area, they said.

That affair, together with the harbour mines, has raised grave issues in Washington. Not only are there questions from most leading Democrats, and some Republicans, about whether the United States ought to be conducting a secret war against Nicaragua, there is the broader question of the presidential prerogative to wage hostilities against a foreign power without some kind of clear congressional sanction.

There is clearly a great deal of confusion in Congress about what is going on. Thirteen days

ago the Senate overwhelmingly approved \$21m (£14.5m) in aid to the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN).

The harbour mining became public knowledge the next day in leaks to the *Wall Street Journal* and others. The ensuing public outcry was persuaded some senators on the committee to say they voted in ignorance of the full facts. Others say they could not publicly protest about the mining until now, because the information was classified.

The Administration, through its usual leakage channels, was said to have ended and will not be resumed. The White House is now conducting an intensive lobbying effort to win support in the House of Representatives for the \$21m aid. The request has been snarled up in the House since it left the Senate.

Some form of compromise will emerge, as it will in President Reagan's other big Central America battle with Congress - his desire to send \$62m in emergency military and medical aid to El Salvador. Both battles are demonstrations of an increasing determination by Congress to restrain President Reagan in his drive to raise the stakes in Central America and also to assert itself in determining if, when, and where the United States takes military action - whether covert, overt, direct or indirect.



Iron guard: Mrs Thatcher inspecting a guard of honour after arriving in Lisbon yesterday. With her is Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister.

Thatcher ready to welcome Lisbon in reformed EEC

From Richard Wigg, Lisbon

Mrs Thatcher started a three-day official visit yesterday, saying Britain wants to welcome Portugal in 1986 to the EEC, but to one reformed on the basis of fairer distribution of burdens and benefits.

"There is work for both of us to do there," she said in a speech prepared for last night's banquet at Sintra, the former summer residence of Portuguese kings. It was given by Dr Mario Soares, the Prime Minister.

Earlier, after lunch at the Prime Minister's residence, Mrs Thatcher had talks and addressed Parliament.

Dr Soares' prepared reply to the banquet carefully avoided any appearance of taking sides among the Ten. He appealed to all EEC leaders to display courage and vision and to cut the Gordian Knot of financial problems.

Mrs Thatcher had said in her speech that Portugal's entry had been too long delayed and that negotiations should be concluded this year. But, she added: "We in Britain remain determined to achieve the reforms which the Community needs. With these reforms behind it, the Community can make a fresh start."

Mrs Thatcher, the first British Prime Minister to make an official visit to Portugal, said it was on her honeymoon that she had last been in Lisbon.

When she arrived from London yesterday, in pleasant spring weather, she said a visit by a British Prime Minister was "greatly overdue" in the more than 600 years of alliance. Both were maritime nations, Mrs Thatcher said, which had achieved world wide influence, something which still retained an interest for each of them "and still inspires a great deal of our action".

Bonn fears refugee flow will turn into trickle

From John England, Bonn

If high-level pessimists in Bonn have got it right, the East German regime's apparently generous new policy of letting thousands of people emigrate to West Germany will end next month.

That is when, if current resettlement rates are maintained, about 20,000 East Germans will have moved to West Germany since the new year. This compares with 11,500 for the whole of 1983.

West German press speculation earlier this year saw a possible total of 50,000 East Germans being allowed to leave their country by next December. But Herr Philipp Jenninger, the state minister in the Bonn chancellery responsible for inner-German policies, put a damper on expectations.

He said in a radio interview last weekend that most of the East Germans allowed out since January had families in West Germany and many of them were "old in cases", people who had applied for permission to leave East Germany years ago.

The balance of the roughly 20,000 East Germans who fell into these categories would have resettled in the West by the middle or the end of May, he said.

Herr Jenninger did not say if

Bonn thought that new applications to leave East Germany would have little or no chance of success. However, it appears that East Berlin has begun a publicity campaign aimed at discouraging them.

East German newspapers last weekend carried front-page reports under the heading "Sixty thousand a year emigrate from West Germany" and said the "exodus" had increased because of the stationing of new United States nuclear missiles.

Newspapers and radio stations in East Germany have also featured West German news media interviews with East German emigrants whose first impressions of their new home were negative.

The West German press said that up to five hundred thousand East Germans want to leave their country. The Bonn Ministry for Inner-German Relations says it cannot confirm that but adds that it knows that some "tens of thousands" have applied for an exit permit.

A ministry spokesman said: "How many of those will be allowed out is a matter of pure speculation but we will accept everyone who comes over. We are bound by our constitution, as well as the humanitarian factor."

A pharaoh's tomb lets off steam

From Our Correspondent Cairo

Strange happenings in the burial chamber of the Pharaoh Khafure, the second biggest pyramid at Giza, has led the Egyptian authorities to put it off limits to visitors for the time being.

Some tourists who had climbed into the burial chamber of the pharaoh on Monday complained to officials of the Antiquities Department that they had experienced eye irritation, headaches and nausea while in the chamber. The symptoms were attributed to some mysterious gas emanating from the burial chamber.

On Tuesday, one of the experts who spent more than an hour in the chamber said the gas was gone and the chamber was "pure". He added that the pyramid would be reopened.

Antiquities Department said that, though the gas seemed to have dissipated, the authorities would wait for the test reports before reopening the pyramid.

He speculated that the gases could have seeped into the chamber from subterranean pools of water known to exist beneath the Giza plateau.

China still aims for deal in September

From David Bonavia Peking

The form of future democratic institutions for Hongkong has been "touched on" in the talks here this week between Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and senior Chinese officials, an informed source said yesterday.

The meetings with Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, and Mr Wu Xueqian, the Foreign Minister, have been aimed at clarifying certain points, the source said. The English-language official newspaper, *China Daily*, yesterday quoted Mr Wu as saying that China still regards September as the deadline for a solution of the Hongkong issue.

Britain disagrees about the need for a deadline, but both sides would like to reach broad agreement on Hongkong by about midsummer, so that Parliament can debate the question after the recess.

Sir Geoffrey will meet Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese elder statesman, today. He will then fly to Hongkong and give a press conference about the talks on Good Friday before visiting South Korea and Japan.

The Foreign Secretary's Peking visit was timed "to review at ministerial level" the progress achieved in the 18-month talks, not to formalize an agreement, the source said.

Regarding the differences still exist between the negotiators, a British source said: "They (the Chinese) start from a different historical point of view."

This was evidently a reference to Peking's view - already substantially accepted by Britain - that Hongkong, Kowloon and the New Territories were seized from China under duress in the nineteenth century, and that the treaties governing their status are therefore invalid.

There have been growing signs of dissatisfaction among the Hongkong public over the secrecy surrounding the talks, and Sir Geoffrey is expected to face a grilling from the local press on Friday.

Germans heading for national strike

Düsseldorf (Reuter) - West Germany faces the possibility of its first big strike since 1978 as talks between the country's biggest union and employers broke down yesterday over the issue of a 35-hour week.

Herr Hans Mayr, leader of I G Metall, the 2.5 million-strong metalworkers' union, said he assumed the first ballots recommending a national strike would be held in the first week of May. His union is traditionally the trendsetter in the annual wage round.

Both Herr Mayr and Herr Wolfram Thiele, representing the employers, saw a possibility of fresh negotiations.

Bomb recess

Canberra (AP) - An elaborate bomb hoax led to evacuation of the Australian Parliament building yesterday. Police linked the incident to a rash of bomb threats by a group claiming to be radical anti-nuclear activists.

Bahais shot

Six more Bahais have been executed in Evin prison, Tehran, and more bodies unceremoniously buried, sources in London learn. Their families were not notified. The dead included Kamran Lutfi, aged 32, university professor and Rahim Rahimiyan, 50, businessman, both jailed since last May, and Yadhullah Sabirian, 60, printing press manager, held more than two years.

Top thriller



Pop singer, Michael Jackson (above), severely burnt last January when fireworks ignited his hair during a Pepsi Cola commercial, undergoes scalp surgery at Culver City, California, today. Extra guards at the hospital will hold off the fans. His latest album *Thriller* has already sold 25 million copies.

High service

Moscow (AP) - The Progress 20 cargo ship carrying fuel, equipment and life-support items, docked with the orbiting Salyut space station which since February 8 has had a three-man crew. They were reported to be well.

SS victory

Oberaula (Reuter) - At a stormy meeting, councillors in this West German village which played host to a controversial reunion of veterans of Hitler's SS "Death's Head" tank division, rejected a motion to ban such meetings in future.

Correction

In an article on April 13 on Tamil militants operating from south India, Mr A. A. Rahim, from India's External Affairs Ministry, should have been quoted as saying: "There are no caches of arms or training camps on Indian territory."

Salvadorean rebels kill 37 soldiers in ambush

From John Carlin San Salvador

Government forces in El Salvador have suffered their worst losses in one military action this year. Military sources here said that 37 soldiers were killed and 14 wounded in a guerrilla ambush on Monday on the Pan-American Highway, the country's principal road.

The soldiers were travelling in a convoy of five lorries when the guerrillas fired on them from all sides with rifles, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. The ambush took place about 40 miles east of the capital in the central province of San Vicente.

That the Army should have presented such an easy target on a vital, much travelled road can only be bad for troop morale as the run-off guerrilla election on May 6 draws near.

Rebel sources in Mexico City said recently that there is serious talk among the guerrilla leadership of launching an all-out offensive shortly after the run-off elections.

Ugandans flee Karamoja cattle raiders

From Charles Harrison Nairobi

Tens of thousands of people are homeless and scores have died after attacks by cattle raiders from Karamoja, north-east Uganda, in the past few weeks.

According to the Uganda Army magazine published in Kampala, 10,000 people have fled into the Town of Soroti from areas close to the Karamoja border.

The Karamojong tribes, who were badly hit by severe drought four years ago, have been raiding adjoining tribes in both Kenya and Uganda.

Managua hits back at Pastora rebels

Managua (Reuter) - Nicaraguan troops have been fighting anti-government rebels along the country's south-east coast, where insurgents say they have gained a foothold.

Officials did not confirm that rebels of the Costa Rican-based Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (Arde) had occupied the southern port of San Juan del Norte and a 30-mile strip along the sparsely populated coast.

The Nicaraguan Defence Ministry said no information on the operation would be released until it was over. In Costa Rica, the *Prensa Libre* newspaper yesterday quoted the Arde chief, Señor Eden Pasora, known as Commander Zero, as saying that the Sandinista Government had mounted a sea-and-air counter-offensive to recapture the port.

Speaking to reporters by radio from San Juan del Norte, he said nine vessels, aircraft and Soviet-made MIG helicopters were pounding rebel positions

round the port, occupied last Friday by 450-man Arde force after three days of fierce fighting.

Señor Pastora said Arde forces had surrounded Bluefields, Nicaragua's most important Atlantic port, with a population of 40,000, 60 miles north of San Juan del Norte. A hero of the 1979 Sandinista revolution which he now opposes, Señor Pastora said 10,000 rebels were involved.

In San Jose, the Costa Rican Foreign Affairs Minister, Señor Carlos José Gutiérrez, denied that the attack on San Juan del Norte had been launched from Costa Rica.

San Juan del Norte is the first town in Nicaragua to be occupied by anti-government rebels.

The Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), a bigger rebel group operating in the north with financial help from the United States, has failed to occupy any sizable area in almost two years of fighting.

Brazil regime attempts to damp down discontent

From Patrick Knight São Paulo

As about a million people gathered in the latest of a series of peaceful mass demonstrations in the centre of São Paulo on Monday night, the Brazilian Government announced proposals for the presidential election after the next one to be by direct suffrage. It made a last ditch attempt to head off the wave of public opinion calling for direct elections now.

The Government has proposed that, if the leading candidate gets more than 40 per cent of the popular vote, he will be elected. If he gets less Congress will choose between the contenders. The President's term of office would be reduced from six to four years, with the next elections in 1988.

In further concessions, the Government has announced



President Figueiredo: his remarks complicated the issue.

that prefects of cities and towns now nominated by governors will be chosen directly in 1986, when there will be general elections.

Leading article, page 13

Lagos gets tough with press

Lagos (Reuter) The Nigerian military Government published a new press law yesterday giving it the power to close newspapers and radio stations and to jail journalists for inaccurate reporting.

A decree puts the onus of proof on the person charged with publishing a report that is false in any material particular, or that brings the Government or officials into ridicule or disrepute.

Trial will be by special tribunal under the chairmanship of a High Court judge sitting with three military officers.

An individual would be liable to a maximum jail term of two years. The tribunal can fine a publishing organization a minimum of 10,000 naira (about £3,000) and the Government will have the power to shut newspapers or radio stations for 12 months if they are deemed "detrimental to the interest of the federation".

No appeal will be allowed against the decision of a tribunal.

Senior officers have said the aim of the decree is to force lazy journalists to investigate a story properly to establish its accuracy. However, newspapers fear that the Government will consider only its own version of a story to be accurate and will use the decree to propagate its views.

This is the third of three articles by Kenneth Mackenzie on Nigeria after 100 days of military rule.

"The big question remains: Is there a viable alternative? And the answer is 'No'."

Thus a Nigerian journalist at the end of a long and impassioned analysis of the military Government under General Muhammad Buhari.

His is a view that is widely shared and underlies the ending of the honeymoon period with the new rulers. But nobody wants a return of the civilian regime of President Shehu Shagari that was overthrown on December 31.

People have become convinced that under the Shagari men there was corruption and enrichment of a few at the top on a scale previously unknown in Nigeria. The trials about to begin should provide evidence of this.

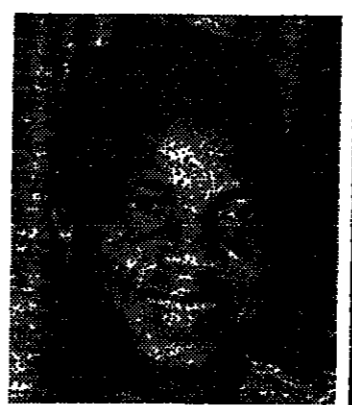
The main culprits are said to be members of the former ruling party, the National Party, of Nigeria, but former state governors of the other main parties are also in detention, presumably with cases to answer. And there is public disgust at the way all members of the federal and state assemblies enriched themselves by huge salaries and allowances and by corruption.

The public is in fact disillusioned with all civilian politicians, and a simple return to party politics is not now a viable alternative.

In practice, the only real

Buhari's first 100 days: Part 3

Honeymoon ends but divorce is out



Facing trial: Dr Alex Ekwueme and Alhaji Shehu Shagari, former Vice President and President.

possibility for change is that General Buhari and his colleagues will be replaced in a counter-coup by another set of officers, probably more junior and more radically-minded. Rumour has it that at least one coup attempt was frustrated in the first 100 days.

A so-called "majors' coup" would almost certainly mean bloodshed - the killing of senior officers and former politicians - and chaos.

There is an awareness, even among the harshest Buhari critics, of the qualities of the present military rulers. They are mature, thoughtful men, almost all experienced in government, showing some respect for freedom and the rule of law and basically concerned with the well-being of the Nigerian people.

These are not small things,

and should put critics of the Government in perspective. But there is certainly cause for criticism.

My journalistic friend was worried about the decree under which politicians face trial by military tribunal: it allows no appeal, has an absurd 21-year minimum sentence and in important areas shifts the onus of proof from the prosecution to the defence.

The press generally is nervous. Two well-known commentators, Tai Solarin and Haroun Adamu, are in detention: the Government has floated vague allegations against them, but most people believe that it is because of their hard-hitting views that they are in prison.

Life is difficult under Buhari. The discussion quoted above

took place in a house in Surulere, Lagos, in the dark, because electricity had failed, as it does every day. (The Government has, however, sacked four electricity authority directors and asked for EEC help, which may eventually bring back light.)

The front door was necessarily barred and padlocked against armed robbers.

My host's subscriptions to *Time* and the *Economist* had ended through lack of foreign exchange. The cake of soap in the bathroom cost three times what it did a few weeks ago.

Inflation, which causes discomfort to the middle classes, causes misery and hunger to the poor and unemployed. These are tense times in Lagos.

Not discussed in public, but a continual cause of passionate debate, is the danger that this tension should assume a divisive, ethnic character.

The feeling that this was a "northern" coup - the replacement of the northern civilian establishment by the northern military establishment - has not faded. One hears the incendiary words, "northern hegemony".

The military rulers are, of course, aware of this danger, and do their best to guard against it. They scrupulously "observe the federal character" in all appointments. It is another reason why there is no viable alternative if the present order breaks down, the whole fabric of the country will be threatened.

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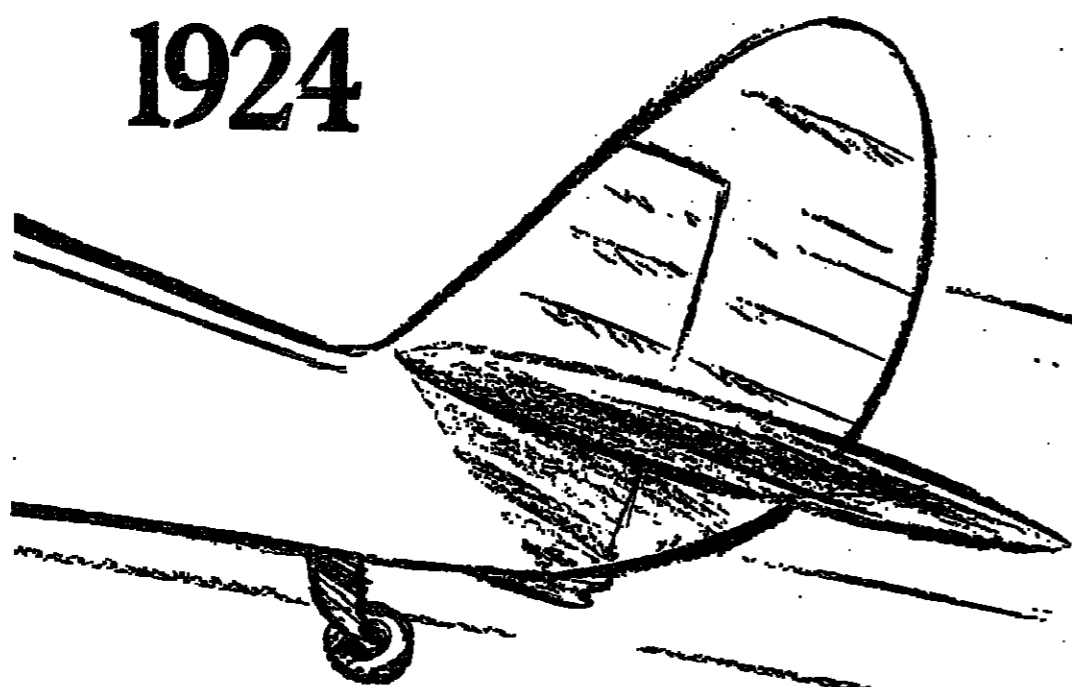
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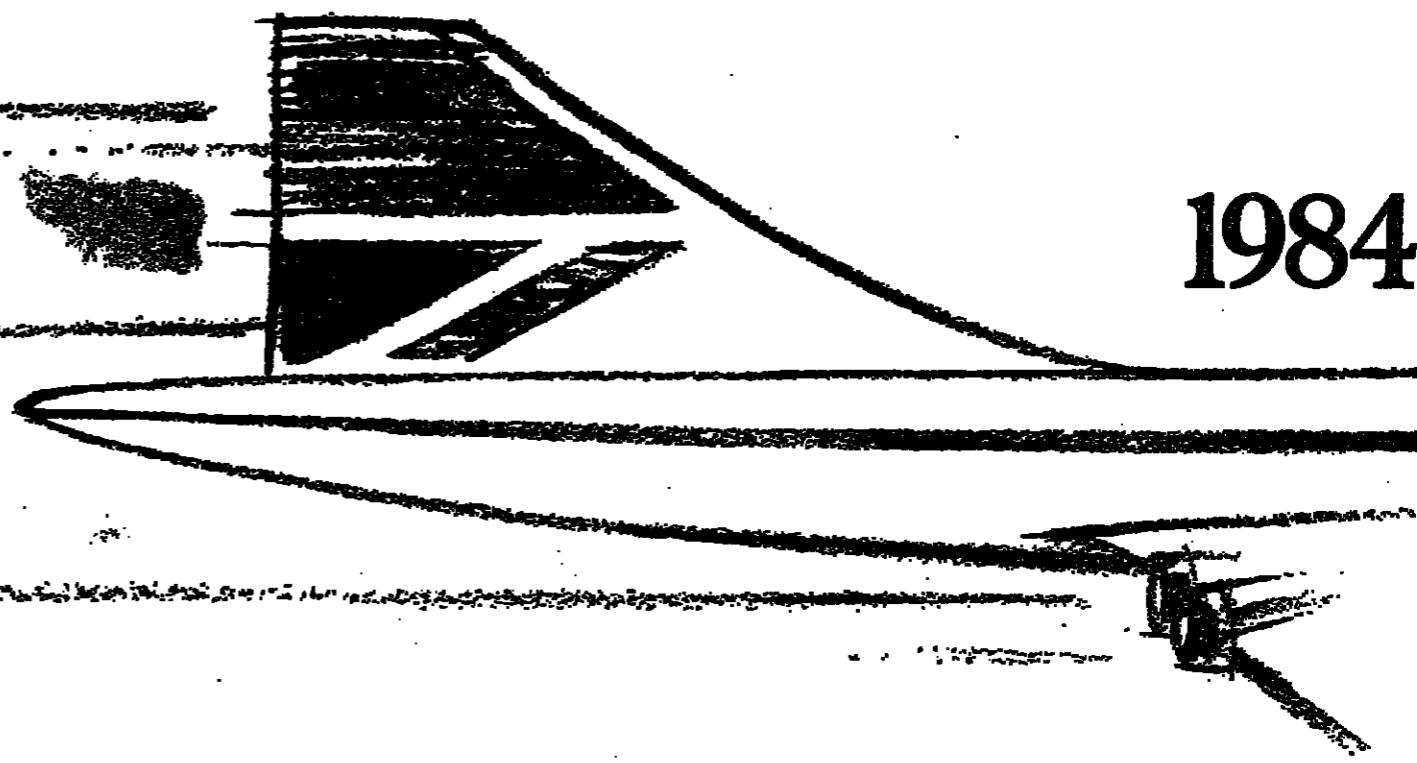


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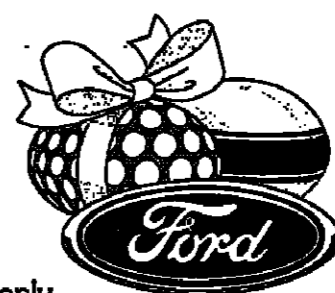
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SPECTRUM



"Why was it that the regime itself and the many outside observers failed to perceive the monstrous plant which the soil of Iran was shortly to release? Why did I, with all my experience of the region, fail to see what was about to happen under my eyes?" Sir Anthony Parsons

An Iranian lesson: the army is not enough

In the final extract from his frank forthcoming memoirs, Sir Anthony reflects on his mistakes and answers his critics

The Iranian revolution was an event which compared in magnitude to the French or Russian revolutions. It was no routine change of regime in a Third World country, the replacement of King X by General Y through the agency of a military coup d'état – the substitute for the ballot box in so many states – or the fall of an individual dictator leaving the nature of the state intact. The Iranian revolution encompassed the total collapse of an apparently powerful, centralized autocracy founded on and backed by a united and loyal military force and the emergence from its ruins of a completely different Iran in virtually all respects.

Why was it that the regime itself and the many outside observers such as foreign diplomats, Western academics, the press, and even the opponents themselves of the Shah's regime, failed to perceive – in the years before the incident at Qom, indeed up to the late summer or early autumn of 1978 – the monstrous plant which the soil of Iran was shortly to release? Why did I, with all my experience of the region, fail to see what was about to happen under my eyes?

A conventional wisdom has grown up since 1979 that the Western embassies were taken by surprise because of inadequate information. We had, so the argument runs, concentrated too exclusively on commercial work during the boom years and had neglected sufficiently to scrutinize the Iranian political scene. By the same token we had been so anxious not to offend the Shah that we had eschewed contact with the opposition and had thus fallen victim to the very complacency that blinded the regime.

We were under no illusions about the popularity of the regime, and recognized that by 1976 the pangs which were inevitably accompanying the transformation of Iranian society, combined with the disappointment of expectations attendant on the collapse of the oil boom, had created a serious and widespread malaise. Where we went wrong was that we did not anticipate that the various rivulets of opposition, each of which had a different reason for resenting the Shah's rule, would combine into a mighty stream of protest which would eventually sweep the Shah away. And, even if we had foreseen this combination, we would probably have



Turkey's Kemal Ataturk, Colonel Gaddafi of Libya, Egypt's Colonel Nasser and the Shah: The armed forces have often been a determining factor in the Islamic world, and coups familiar. But history showed that Iran was different

concluded that purely civilian opposition, however united and however vocal, would be powerless against the bulwark of the armed forces, provided that they remained united and loyal to the Pahlavis.

Hence I am inclined to think that our lack of perception derived not from a failure of information but from a failure to interpret correctly the information available to us. We were looking down the right telescope but were focused on the wrong target. Here I blame myself unreservedly. Although I had the academic background to lead me to a correct interpretation of the facts which we had identified, I did not draw the appropriate lesson from Iran's historical past but generalized overmuch from my experience in Turkey and the Arab world.

Let me explain. From the Middle Ages until the twentieth century, the regular armed forces were at the centre of power in the Ottoman Empire. To this day the Turkish armed forces, as we have seen more than once since they overthrew the government of Adnan Menderes in 1960, have constituted the determining factor in the politics of the Turkish Republic. The Arab states which emerged in the 1920s, as the successors to the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East, inherited this tradition. We have become familiar with military coups d'état in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, etc.

However, the Iranian tradition has been different ever since Iran re-emerged as a nation state at the beginning of the sixteenth century. Until the nineteenth century successive Shahs depended for their military strength on feudal and tribal levies: their survival or otherwise, like that of English kings before the Civil War, derived from their ability to command the loyalty of "barons" rather than the loyalty of regular forces directly answerable to the Crown. The religious leadership, together with tribal chieftains and rural landowners, had been the most influential of these elements ever since Shi'ite Islam became the state religion of Iran in the sixteenth century with the advent of the Safavid dynasty.

In the nineteenth century, with the first seeds of modernization beginning to break surface, the small nucleus of Westernized intellectuals emerged as another challenge to the absolutism of the Shah. In addition, the bazaar merchants, who controlled the levers of the traditional economy of the country, constituted a third force. The bazaaris were historically the allies of the mullahs through a symbiosis which persisted through until 1978. On a number of occasions during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries these three elements – religious, intellectual, bazaar – combined to oppose some action of the Shah or to

promote some cause on which they were, albeit temporarily, united.

Three examples come to mind. In 1872 Nasruddin Shah granted a far-reaching concession to a naturalized British businessman, Baron de Reuter, which would have given him a monopoly covering almost all aspects of the Iranian economy. Under pressure from the clergy and the liberal politicians, the Shah was obliged to cancel the concession. In 1891-2 Nasruddin Shah granted a monopolistic tobacco concession to a British company. The clergy and the bazaar merchants combined to oppose this move, and the liberals disseminated pamphlets throughout the country attacking the concessions. In the end the Shah was forced to back down and the concession was withdrawn.

In the Constitutional Movement of 1905-6 the intelligentsia, the merchants and the clergy again combined to overcome the Shah's resistance to the granting of a constitution. Their methods included civil disobedience and the withdrawal of cooperation from the central government. With the country paralysed, the Shah was forced to climb down and to grant the 1906 constitution, which was still, at least in theory, the basis of government until the Shah was ousted in 1979.

Why did I not apply these lessons of history, which were part of my

intellectual knowledge of Iran, to the contemporary scene?

I have brooded long on this error of interpretation and have come to the following conclusions. First, I had become too accustomed to observing the principle of the primacy of military force in the politics of the countries in which I had served to be able to make the intellectual leap necessary to take into account the uniqueness of Iran in this regard.

Secondly, I overestimated the extent to which 60 years of Pahlavi rule had transformed the nature of Iranian social and political life.

I was inclined to think therefore, while dismissing the ballyhoo about Pahlavi Iran being a renaissance of the pre-Islamic Persian Empire, that there had been a genuine severance with the immediate pre-Pahlavi past and that contemporary Iran had evolved on the pattern of superficially similar, military based, Third World autocracies in a condition of rapid economic and social development.

This mistaken judgment led me to the conclusion that, provided the Shah could continue to depend on his powerful and loyal armed forces, he was safe from the assaults of fragmented and unarmed civilian elements however implacably hostile they might be. I continued to hold this view until

late September 1978 and it was only when the political strikes began that I realised that history was indeed beginning to repeat itself. By that time it was too late for this revelation to be of much practical use.

In his book, *Answer to History*, the Shah has implied that he did not believe in the sincerity of my advice and that he could not clear his mind of his obsessive suspicion that I was the front-line instrument of some devious British plot to rob him of his throne. But I can only repeat that the advice I gave him was genuinely personal and based on my best judgment of events in a country in which I had served continuously for nearly five years. Indeed, I can still hear my own voice telling the Shah on numerous occasions that I would not tell him what I thought unless he assured me that he would accept what I had to say as the disinterested advice of a genuine well-wisher, untainted by any ulterior motive. He invariably gave me such assurances, although I now know, as I suspected at the time, that he was intellectually and emotionally incapable – who can blame him in the light of his own history? – of accepting my views at their face value.

Strangely enough in the light of much that has been written after the event, the Shah and I were never in disagreement about the line of policy which should be followed if there was to be any hope of weathering the storm. From the moment when the nationwide strikes began for economic reasons in late September, I became convinced that there was no military solution to the crisis. The Shah was of the same mind. I can hear him saying, time and again, "A military solution is no solution," and "A dictator can survive by killing his people: a king cannot."

I have been accused of persuading him to leave when he should have stayed. The truth is that I was surprised at his willingness to leave.

I reproach myself for many things, during my five years in Iran, as I hope I have been candid enough to admit. But I do not reproach myself for the advice I gave the Shah during those last four months. Given the same circumstances and even with the benefit of hindsight, I would say the same again.

I never liked nor admired him so much as I did during those last months as he faced with sangfroid, objectivity, humour and above all with humanity, the successive waves of crisis which were eventually to batter down his defences. Many of those who deserted his cause in his hour of need and either fled or cast their lot with what they believed to be the winning, even the better, side must now be filled with boundless regret.

The Pride and the Fall by Sir Anthony Parsons is to be published on April 26 by Jonathan Cape (£8.95).

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We reveal all about the gorgon with Zola

Move over, Torvill and Dean! Now the British press has found another golden pair to celebrate! Yes, it's hello to Zola and Budd, the dynamic duo who have elected to come and live in Britain. And they're exclusive to Moreover!

He is Emile Zola, the prize-winning French novelist who has been driven out of France by the Dreyfus affair and now wants to write for England.

She is "Sticky" Budd, the American comedienne and the funniest thing on two legs since Kathy Acker; she thinks our audiences are the most wonderful in the world.

Together they are Zola and Budd, the wackiest duo to hit town since Richard Attenborough and Oscar Zola, who writes all his novels barefoot and can

hardly speak English, was granted British nationality on arrival so that he can represent Britain at the next Booker Prize. Budd, who performs in American national costume (expensive French clothes) and speaks in American subtitles, has been granted New Zealand nationality.

"Boy, was that a surprise!" says Budd. "I wasn't even asking for it – I was only making inquiries at the Home Office on behalf of Zola. Apparently they work so fast at the Home Office that last year they completed three cases. Anyway, I just walked in through the door and they said: 'Hello, do you want to compete in the Olympics?'"

"Well, I thought that sounded fun so I said, 'Sure'. And they said they were fresh out of British nationality, but they had

moreover...
Miles Kington

one for New Zealand that was going spare. Fine, I thought, I'll wear it in the evenings."

Together Zola and Budd do what the media regard as the best press conferences around. Zola mumbles into his beard a lot and Budd does most of the translating. When Zola thinks that Budd has been talking too long, he shouts: "J'accuse!"

"Have you read Emile's tract called 'J'accuse'?" says Budd. "It's dynamite! I call it a tract because I don't know what the hell else to call it. It's too short to be a novel and it's too long to be a sentence by Bernard Levin."

"Basically it's about this guy Dreyfus who wanted to get

to the top of the French army but everyone was against him. The French were against him because he had a German name. His family were against him because they thought it was no job for a nice Jewish boy. The French army? they said. Who did the French army ever beat? So they sent him to Devil's Island, or what nowadays we'd call Club Mediterranée, and he has a hell of a time. We're thinking of Woody Allen for the film version."

"J'accuse!" cries Zola. "Keep accusing, baby," says Budd. "And take your absinthe."

Between them they should shake up the native British cultural scene, which for too long has been dominated by local authors like V. S. Naipaul and Salman Rushdie.

"Rushdie?" says Budd. "Isn't he the guy who's always criticizing your Indian restaurants here in London? I think they're great. Emile, what do you think of Indian food?"

"J'accuse!", cries Emile. "He likes it", translates Budd.

What a pair! A breath of fresh air in the stuffy old world of British letters. Or, as Budd puts it: "I just love your British letters. I only wish someone would deliver them."

The only question now remaining is the one that everyone wants to ask. Is it wedding bells for Zola and Budd? Zola doesn't understand the question. Budd says: "What, and spoil everything?"

More from the dizzy duo soon. Remember – only in Moreover!

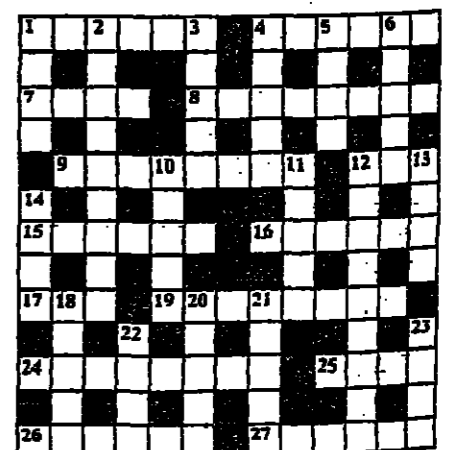
CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 321)

ACROSS

- Smart (6)
- Bad-tempered (6)
- Excellent quality (4)
- Women's rights seeker (8)
- Heredity study (8)
- Brown edible fungus (3)
- Low frequency speaker (6)
- Notepad (6)
- Obtained (3)
- Earl of Stockton's nickname (8)
- Extravagantly emotional (4)
- Largest continent (4)
- Large bottle (6)
- Flexing muscle (6)

DOWN

- Foolish (4)
- Whit Sunday (9)
- Equip again (5)
- Funny paper (5)
- Old Indian coin (4)
- Moisten meat (5)



- Equal odds (5)
- Scrape clean (5)
- Emotional purging (9)
- Amenity land (4)
- Large swallow (4)
- Entrails (5)
- Conjunction (5)
- Upright (5)
- Freud collaborator (4)
- Just (4)

SOLUTION TO No 320

- ACROSS: 1 Saddhu 5 Tube 8 Acid 9 Impasse 11 Splatter 13 Yogi 15 Intensive 18 Role 19 Stigmata 22 Piccolo 23 Sabir 24 Sun 25 Stucco
- DOWN: 2 April 3 Did 4 United Nations 5 Tape 6 Bespoke 7 Tawse 10 Enut 12 Tate 14 Zing 15 Illicit 16 Prep 17 Mamba 20 Ad hoc 21 Porn 23 Sou

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THE TIMES DIARY

Clubbing apart

Cecil Parkinson, I hear, has left the Reform Club. Friends say his departure was prompted by the risk of being confronted by his former secretary, Sara Keays, also a Reform Club member, who made her first "public appearance" since the birth of their child Flora at a Wine Pool dinner there last week. Yesterday Parkinson's new secretary, Angela Mathew, insisted: "He never used the Reform - he thought it was a waste of money." Now Parkinson's only refuge is the Carlton Club where, for the moment at least, he is on safer ground. It allows only lady associate members (LAMs) who, I am told, must be MPs, MEPs, or Conservative peers.

Craft, not graft

Work on Kelmscott Manor, Oxfordshire, William Morris's summer home, appears to be in good hands. Workmen emerge from vans marked W. Morris. I am assured that no nepotism extends beyond the grave of the great English craftsman. The building firm in question is Walter E. Morris of Black Bourton, Oxfordshire. Definitely no relation.

So good, sofa

The 40 psychoanalysts who have taken over the Castle Hotel in Taunton for a week's international conference - after vetting each room for size, floor and colour - are promising to improve upon the hotel's Michelin star. They say that if it lives up to first impressions they will award owner Kit Chapman a couch.

Open and shut

Blackburn District Council is to give £300 to the Campaign for Freedom of Information, the group launched this year to combat secrecy in public places. The decision was taken by the grants sub-committee - at a meeting which, like all of the council's working parties, is closed to the press and public.

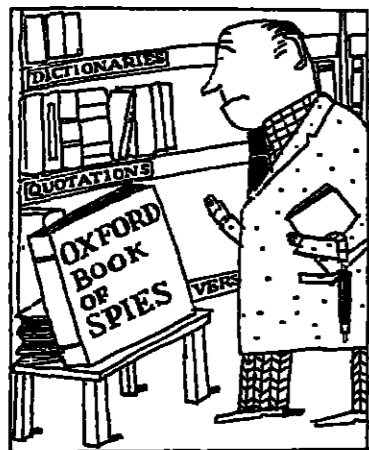
Calf measure

Ken Livingstone, who has just struck west off the menu at County Hall on humanitarian grounds, is clearly unaware that the GLC rents out a veal-producing farm in Barnet, just outside London. Indeed Quincey Veal told me it has just built two barns to expand production. Now Livingstone has been invited to visit the farm to see "the most humane method of farming." It sounds like an issue that Tory GLC councillors could milk for all their worth.

Spires and spy

It has not gone unnoticed by the Opposition front bench that, with the Bettany trial, Oxford is finally vying with Cambridge in the spy graduate stakes. *The Times* has received a letter at its House of Commons office: "What have the following in common? Rt. Hon Michael Heseltine, Sec of State for Defence; Rt Hon Denis Davies, Shadow defence spokesman; Sir Frank Cooper, former Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence; Michael Bettany, M15 sent down (KGB) (failed). All were educated at Pembroke College, Oxford!" The handwritten letter was signed: Denis Davies, MP.

BARRY FANTONI



Phantom fears

After the cast of *Breakneck*, the play about killer Ruth Ellis, was showered in a torrent of pigeon droppings during rehearsals, I wonder what fate will befall the next performers at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East. *The Phantom of the Opera*, which opens on May 9, is directed by Ken Hill, whose last play at Stratford, *The Phantom of the Opera*, left the theatre in mayhem. Manager Philip Hedley fell and cracked his head after reading the reviews; the theatre handyman broke his leg; Ken Hill's venomous snake, Asp, bit and killed Crichley, the bar cat; the bar staff threatened to strike; Asp was banished - and replaced by a rubber snake.

Armed struggle

Mrs Thatcher's revival of hereditary peerages seems to have brought the age of chivalry to her court. Sir Alfred Sherman, close counsellor and occasional jester, is considering a coat of arms and the devices he might use on the shield. He favours a lance topped with a pen nib, as befits a founder of that right-wing round table, the Centre for Policy Studies, whose members have fought long and hard in the lists against such heraldic beasts as the quango, the flying picket and the dreaded neo-Keynesians. The motto Sir Alfred has chosen: "He who dares to think will dare everything".

PHS

George Walden on the aftermath of the embassy shooting

Libya: issues that must be faced



June 1980: Musa Kusa (right) shortly before the Foreign Office demanded his recall to Tripoli

Diplomatic history is rich in outrage. There is no lack of precedents for the use of embassies as bases for the surveillance, intimidation and even elimination of dissidents. But yesterday's appalling attack from the Libyan People's Bureau on demonstrators will go down as one of the most monstrous events in a lengthening catalogue of crimes.

The obvious question is: how did we get into a position where diplomatic missions can be used in this way? Impatience with what are seen as technical niceties is understandable at such moments. But it is still worth looking at the background to yesterday's events, as well as at some of the harsher realities governing present international relations.

Ever since Colonel Gaddafi declared that the Libyan embassy in London, along with those in other countries, had been transformed into a "People's Bureau" there have been troubles and tensions. The whole philosophy behind the takeover was that the Libyan "people" would deal directly with the British "people" - though the new diplomats were keen to preserve their immunities as well. The Foreign Office reaction was to try to curtail the new mission within the accepted conventions.

The first step was to find out who was in charge of the "Bureau". Once the "Secretary General of the People's Committee" running the embassy had been formally accepted as a chargé d'affaires the Government had what it needed: somebody

who was formally and legally responsible with whom to deal.

But all this did not prevent the murder of Libyan dissidents in early 1980, the dispatch of the then Under-Secretary, Sir Anthony Ackland, to Tripoli to reason with the Libyan government, or the eventual declaration of the head of the bureau, Musa Kusa, as *persona non grata* because of "activities incompatible with his status".

Why did we not break off, or at least suspend diplomatic ties with Libya at the time? There was no lack of moral or technical grounds for closing the mission. But, as usual, questions of what seems right have

to be judged against what is sensible, and even an element of self-interest cannot be avoided.

Relations between states are a moral minefield. When the British mission in Peking was sacked and its personnel beaten up by Red Guards, we did not break relations with China despite public pressure. The main reason was that, in the turmoil of the time, Peking would probably have simply held our diplomats hostage. British businessmen in China, could also have been in danger.

In the case of Libya, it would have been irresponsible not to take account of the 7,000 British citizens

working there. Nor is it necessarily evidence of moral flaccidity to put £300m worth of British exports into the balance. And finally, the brutal question has to be asked: would a severance of relations have prevented the attacks on Libyans living or studying in Britain?

But yesterday's appalling events, following the recent bombings, must lead to a complete reassessment of our strategy for dealing with the Libyans. Our exports cannot be bought by countenancing anarchy in St James's Square; toleration cannot extend to the killing of police-women.

We must make clear to Colonel Gaddafi that enough is enough. Without imperilling the safety of British citizens, there must be an orderly withdrawal of the staff of the Libyan mission. This is the challenge that faces the Foreign Office.

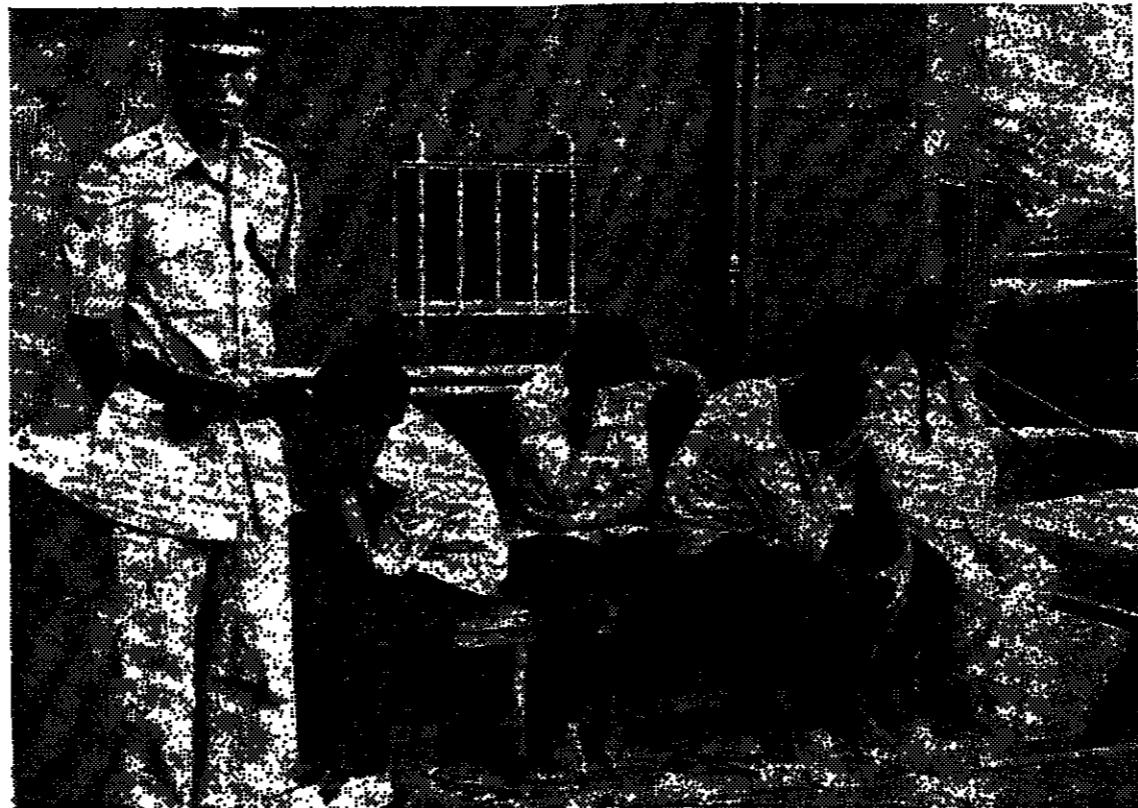
It is little comfort to know that we are not alone. Recent events in Paris and Germany, not to mention Middle Eastern capitals, are evidence of a deterioration in the fragile conventions of which civilized international contacts depend.

When the immediate crisis is over, we must look urgently at two areas of concern. The first is the misuse of the diplomatic bags, an issue which is bound to arise again after yesterday's incident; the second is the whole thorny issue of the status of foreign missions. Both are large cans of worms. But public patience will not endure indefinitely. The author, *Conservative MP for Buckingham*, was private secretary to Lord Carrington when Foreign Secretary.

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Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Curtains for Hongkong too



Journey's end for five refugees caught by the Hongkong police. Those making the attempt now must get through an electrical fence on the Chinese side of the border

Just repeating what I said earlier, I want to draw attention to a little-remarked news item that appeared recently - so little-remarked, indeed, that as far as I could see only one newspaper in this country carried it, and that one (*the Sunday Telegraph*) devoted a mere 17 lines to it. Television did better.

It seems that the news of the Hongkong negotiations, and the likelihood that they will conclude with an agreement that Hongkong shall become a Chinese possession, has not deterred those Chinese citizens who, following the example of so many others who have risked their lives to get there, have been slipping (or swimming) across the border, turning their backs on the glories and delights of liberation under communism and demonstrating a preference for the status of oppressed colonial subjects of HM the Queen.

It is not, in my view, sufficiently well known that refugees from China who are caught by the British border guards entering Hongkong are sent back - to what fate it is perhaps better for our peace of mind not to speculate. Despite this added hazard, the attempt is still made, and numbers of brave men and women still manage to evade the Chinese guards and the British ones alike, and settle in the crown colony.

All other methods used by the Chinese authorities to stop this flow having failed, we now learn that they have erected a continuous electrified fence, running for 60 miles along the Chinese border and coastline. To man this modern Great Wall of China some 4,500 soldiers and militiamen will be required: there will be seven crossing-points like

Checkpoint Charlie, that well guarded aperture in the Berlin Wall, but for any Chinese citizen to pass through one of these seven eyes of the needle he will need a special pass, no doubt confirming that he is on official and authorized business.

The fact that this story has so far had no wider currency has meant that none of our home-grown Chinese fellow-travellers has as yet felt obliged to defend the action of their heroes, as the Soviet fellow-travellers defend the Berlin Wall ("It's the brain drain, you see - the capitalists in West Germany were bleeding the East German economy white"), though no doubt Messrs Felix Greene and Neville Maxwell, assuming they have not contracted incurable laryngitis, could run up a set of excuses for it in no time at all. But it is the silence of those who would not wish to excuse it in the first place that concerns me more.

I have pointed out on countless occasions that while all countries, reasonably enough, take careful precautions against being invaded by hostile neighbours, it is only totalitarian countries that take equally strict precautions against being outwaded by their own citizens, and kill those who try it; indeed, it is this that a totalitarian state, in the absence of other evidence, may be identified.

Is that not one of the most extraordinary and abominable facts about our era, despite our era's massive overproduction of extraordinary and abominable facts? Is it not matter for horror and outrage that people who want to do nothing but peacefully leave their own country are murdered by mines or automatic weapons (or indeed by

the guards on the watch-towers) if they try to do so and do not have the good fortune to avoid the traps set for them?

But if it is a matter for horror and outrage, where is the said horror and outrage to be found? In the answer to that question lies a tragedy that it seems we are powerless to avert or affect; it is that totalitarianism deadens feeling not only within its borders, where people deaden their feelings in order to enjoy life without being reminded of those elsewhere who do not. We cannot liberate the peoples who live under tyranny, but is that really an excuse for not caring about them?

To some, it clearly is; to many, even; perhaps to most. So I have no great hopes of setting the Thames on fire with my tale of the new Wall of Death along the Chinese border. All the same, the three angles of a triangle will continue to add up to 180 degrees even after the last life on earth has vanished; there are truths which are independent of any audience, let alone a sympathetic one. And one of these truths is that a regime which erects a 60-mile wall and makes the mere touching of it lethal, solely in order to prevent the citizens behind it from leaving the country it encircles, is a regime that is, to use an amusingly old-fashioned word, evil. And it is to that regime that, in 1997, some 5,000,000 men, women and children in Hongkong will be transferred in return for promises as convincing as the wolf's assurance to the lamb hesitating at the threshold of his lair that he has turned vegetarian.

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Brownies, Boonies

New words for old/Philip Howard

I was never a Brownie. But I was a Wolf Cub, until our pack was disbanded with dishonour for setting the woods near Greenham Common on fire. And what we worked away for was not points, but badges, toggles, or possibly woggles, and a smile from Akela, the pack leader, with whom we were all in love. I do not believe that Brownies get points either.

If you are going to take a serious interest in slang, you need a nasty mind. A quick look in any dictionary of slang will show that any expression with brown in it is more likely to be scatological than to have anything to do with Girl Scout Brownies. These matters of vernacular are not susceptible to proof. But I regret to have to say that the term Brownie point is more likely to be

military than scouting, and to derive from brown-nose or brown-tongue (cf brown-sucker), an essential part of the ambitious officer's repertoire.

I have a witty American acquaintance who lives in darkest Perthshire. Her neighbours have been asking her for years, with bright eyes and hoping for a Brownie point, what she thinks of living in Scotland. She habitually says: "It's really the boonies, isn't it?" They purr, taking this to be an American superlative of commendation. She may have to find a new reply, since American television has started to bring this bit of slang into Britain, often abbreviated to "the Boonies".

The Boonies are another bit of military slang. War and military service are great mureurs for jargon. During the last war GIs stationed in

the Philippines were sometimes, when unlucky, sent on duty to a mountain region, the back of beyond, called Bundok in Tagalog. It means "in the sticks", another agreeable piece of American slang. If you lived out of town in early America, you lived in the woods, in a low cab, I dare say. In the sticks.

I have also come across misunderstanding in Britain of the term rain checks. In the US giving and taking a rain check originated from the civilized custom of issuing free tickets for the postponed match to spectators whose enjoyment of a baseball game had been interrupted by bad weather. The phrase has been widely adapted. "Give me a rain check" means "I really don't want to have lunch with you in the rain".

Brits are unaware that Americans are using check as a synonym for ticket. They assume that check means test. Consequently they use "to take a rain check" to mean, "to test whether it is raining, or will rain"; and, by extension, to check whether a future event of almost any kind is likely to occur.

Peter Kellner

Here's health - to big business

Whom does the National Health Service exist to serve? Thirty-six years after its foundation it is something of a scandal that the answer is far from clear.

It ought to be clear, of course. Most people would agree that the NHS should promote the health of the population, provide everyone who needs treatment with prompt and adequate access to medical help, and use taxpayers' money as fairly and efficiently as possible. I should be surprised if many people quarrelled with that - even those who disagree on other aspects of health policy, such as private medicine or prescription charges.

There is, however, another answer. It is not to be found anywhere in Hansard, or in the transcripts of any *Panorama* or *Weekend World* interview. It is to be found instead in the contents of two reports the Government has tried to suppress, the boardings around many cricket grounds, in the balance sheets of some of Britain's most profitable companies, and in chemical analysis of almost any beefburger. It is that the NHS serves the interests of the medical profession, the tobacco companies, the drugs and medical supplies industry, and the makers of fatty foods.

The Department of Health and Social Security's sorry record long predates the present government. But since the Conservatives returned to power five years ago, the DHSS's stewardship of the health service has markedly worsened.

The pattern was set three years ago when Patrick Jenkin, then Secretary of State for Social Services, tried to bury the report *Inequalities in Health*, which documented how far the NHS remained from the ideal of equal care for all. Fortunately for anyone with a care for truth and social justice, Mr Jenkin botched his plan, and the report escaped into the daylight. (He had quietly made a few copies available without allowing any accompanying summaries or publicity, and naively hoped that nobody much would notice.)

Mr Jenkin's successor, Norman Fowler, learnt the lesson: if you are going to suppress things, do it properly. Last year the National Advisory Committee on Nutritional Education analysed how we were eating the wrong kind of food, and recommended how much of what we should eat instead.

An effective government publicity campaign based on the report would have provoked a few heart attacks in the boardrooms of many food manufacturers, but would have helped the rest of us to avoid one. The DHSS simply refused to publish it. It took a pre-Sarah Tisdall leak to *The Sunday Times* to make the recommendations public.

Sometimes individual ministers step out of line, and put the public first. One of these was Sir George Young, Parliamentary Secretary at the DHSS from 1979 to 1981. He wanted to curtail the power of tobacco companies to promote their

products on street hoardings and at sports grounds. The tobacco companies did not want to be curtailed. Sir George was moved from the department.

More recently, evidence has come to light of monopoly relationships between some of Britain's biggest companies and the DHSS. Labour's shadow health minister, Michael Meacher, wrote earlier this month to Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, asking him to investigate two of these links: the supply of surgical gloves by the London Rubber Company, and that of oxygen by the British Oxygen Company. In both cases cheaper supplies from competitors have been available, but DHSS officials have helped LRC and BOC retain their monopolies.

This week sees another chance to put the DHSS to the test. Yesterday, a major report was published calling for radical measures to reduce deaths from coronary heart disease. The report follows a two-year study partly sponsored by the DHSS.

Some of the proposals involve spending relatively modest sums of money. For example, £3m a year on a publicity programme. It would be in keeping with the usual standard of DHSS decision-making if it agreed to this, but blocks the more serious threat to food manufacturers posed by yesterday's report: it wants food manufacturers to be required to label the fat and salt content of all food, and it wants a progressive reduction in that amount.

The DHSS has the power under the 1955 Food and Drugs Act to enforce the labelling proposal, which would need a statutory instrument rather than a complicated new law. At present, for example, the meat fat in beefburgers and sausages may be concealed within the overall "meat" content: the fat need not be separately identified.

Well, will Kenneth Clarke, the Minister of Health, take up the challenge? And, while he is about it, will he implement the proposal immediately preceding this one and "ban all cigarette advertising, including sports and arts sponsorship"?

If we take standard DHSS practice as our guide, the answers are depressingly obvious. Yet radical action by Mr Clarke ought to appeal to the ideological instincts of a government that preaches the benefits of free-market capitalism. Two of the most basic principles of such a system are that monopolies should give way to competition, and that complete information should be made available to consumers to enable them to make rational decisions.

I realize it is a bit much to ask a Conservative government to apply socialist principles to the NHS. But it is also too much to ask it to apply basic Tory principles: where they might do some good?

The author is political editor of the *New Statesman*.

Jock Bruce-Gardyne

Problem: getting Rooke to move

The second Viscount Hall has an unusual claim to fame. He is, so far as I recall, the only chairman of a nationalized industry to have been dismissed.

It is a curious paradox. Over the years it has been a recurrent theme of chairmen of our public corporations that the formidable task of attempting to manage vast enterprises more or less insulated from the pressures and disciplines of the market place have been immensely complicated by the meddling and chronic schizophrenia of ministers and civil servants. When one compares the relationships of public corporations with their sponsoring departments overseas - in France, for example - it would be hard to deny that our techniques leave something to be desired. Yet it is equally apparent that the chairman of a British public corporation who knows his own mind and is sufficiently determined to get his own way can display a defiance of the chosen preferences of the representatives of his shareholders which would not be lightly tolerated in the private sector.

Which brings us to the case of Sir Denis Rooke. Sir Denis is a citizen of credit and renown. Among the great captains of the public sector he now stands first in order of seniority. A gasman to his fingertips who joined the South-Eastern Gas Board in 1949, he was appointed deputy chairman of the old Gas Council in the days of Edward Heath and raised to the chairmanship in 1976. He witnessed the transformation of the Cinderella of the energy industries and masterminded its emergence as the shining British High Speed Gas. We have come to know and love. Through the recession, when other public corporations were reporting big losses, he alone was yearly generating profit on a scale to make even the world-weary mandarins of the Treasury salivate.

Those of a sceptical disposition might argue that anyone given a monopoly on North Sea gas at bargain rates, with exclusive rights to sell it when the cost of all competing fuels was going through the roof, who could not show a handsome profit on the transaction would need his head examining. Nevertheless Sir Denis did not let us down.

He is, however, and always has been, a fearsome guard dog of his corporation's hereditary rights and dignities. When the present government was in opposition, innocent

inquiries about the logic of taxing oil and its derivatives, while leaving gas and coal unburdened, raised the colour in his cheeks. When the newly-elected Tory government decided to concentrate his corporation's attention on its basic business by taking it out of oil production, whether offshore or onshore, and when the Monopolies Commission cast doubt on some of the trading practices of the show-rooms, and suggested we might all be better off without them, he mounted a tireless campaign and finally scared the Government off its plans for disposal of the show-rooms.

Single-handed, he obliged it to legislate before it could return his erstwhile North Sea oil interests to private enterprise. When it came to his corporation's interest in the *Witch Farm* oilfield in Dorset, he dared the Government to direct him to dispose of it. This the Government did, on June 26, 1981. Yet three years later it remains unsold: and even now it seems the bold Sir Denis has devised another wheeze to play for time.

He also wants to tie us into a long-term deal to purchase gas from the Norwegian Sleipner field (at prices which he does not dream of paying for supplies from our own side of the North Sea basin), and seems to be implying that if ministers do not back up and bless his business acumen, he will go ahead without them.

When one reflects that a previous wizard scheme by British Gas to buy supplies from the Norwegian Frigg field has obliged us ever since to tax fuel oil at far higher rates than those prevailing on the Continent, and that with the Siberian gas pipeline soon to come on stream, long-term gas supplies are looking plentiful, ministerial reservations seem eminently understandable.

But the moral of this lengthy saga is surely this. So long as the heads of the public corporations vigorously pursue the achievement of their purposes set out for them by the elected representatives of their owners, those representatives should support them. Equally, however, if and when it becomes clear that their purposes are in conflict with those of their elected masters, then the time has come for them to go.

Since it was glaringly apparent that Sir Denis fell into the latter category long before his first term of office expired, it was a mystery to some of us that he was asked to carry on. "Best man for the job", we were soothingly assured. Can that really still be so?



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AN UNDIPLOMATIC OUTRAGE

Diplomatic relations can survive quite a lot because they exist for the conduct of necessary business even between adversaries or countries with bad relations. But they depend on the mutual observance of certain clear conventions in return for which the representatives of each side are granted immunities. Libya's representatives in this country long ago gave many signs of having abandoned these conventions. Although there was no public proof, the British authorities believe that what passes for a Libyan embassy in London - the Libyan People's Bureau - bears some responsibility, even if indirect, for last month's bomb attacks in London and for other acts of terrorism, including the murder of three Libyan critics of the Gaddafi regime in 1980. The situation began to look even more ominous when a "student" group took control of the embassy in February, apparently with support from Tripoli, and criticized Britain for harbouring enemies of Colonel Gaddafi.

Now comes an outrage that would be appalling by any standards. By diplomatic standards it is wholly intolerable. Members of Libya's official representation have opened fire on a London square, killing a British policewoman and woun-

ding many others. There were demonstrations going on at the time, so perhaps the Libyans inside the building feared an assault. There had been warnings that the PLO might attack Libyan missions abroad. But even this provides no excuse for such murderous and irresponsible behaviour. The external protection of foreign embassies in London is the job of the British authorities, who were doubtless as aware as the Libyans of any threats that had been made. There was no sign whatever of the demonstration getting out of hand.

The situation is made even worse by the fact that the Libyan government, far from apologizing or pleading self-defence against the demonstrators, has had the amazing effrontery to say that the British police were assaulting the building. Therefore the shooting cannot be treated as a mistake to be smoothed over with apologies and compensation. It has to be treated as an act for which the Libyan government takes responsibility. In fact, it looks like a logical sequel to the hysterical outpourings of hate against Britain which have appeared in the Libyan press recently.

This puts the British government in a very difficult quan-

dary. The proper and unavoidable response to the incident is to expel the entire Libyan mission, but there are about twenty British diplomats plus dependents in Libya and about 8,500 other British citizens. The Libyan press has already threatened that any "humiliation" of Libyan or Arab citizens in Britain will be met with "tenfold humiliation for Britons staying in Libya and the rest of the Arab homeland". The level of paranoid hysteria now evident in Libya makes almost any madness possible.

So, while the British government must safeguard its citizens from Libyan outrages in London it cannot ignore the safety of those in Libya itself. Perhaps the Libyan government would think twice about the economic cost of doing anything that would sever all relations with Britain but logical considerations of this sort cannot be relied upon to prevail in Tripoli at the moment. The British government will therefore have to tread carefully. Nevertheless, important points of principle and national security are at stake and there can be no doubt about what the end result should be. Britain cannot permit foreign wars to be fought on its soil, or foreign "diplomats" to fire on British citizens.

SCHOOL MEALS IN NO-MAN'S LAND

School meals and the women who serve them once occupied a prize place in the national affections. The lunches themselves were associated with that Webbsite conviction in national efficiency through state-ordered diet. And the women, dinner ladies, enjoyed maternal respect, representing the nanny state at her most caring. The modern reality is usually a lot less misty-eyed. School lunches now occupy a no-man's-land between giving the customers what they want, and can afford, and what is deemed good for them and the unionized labour serving them. The task of supervising lunches is resented by teachers; their subsidies are often a drain on the provision of money for education proper.

There is a mixed pattern, reflecting the uncertainty of councils about their welfare role: here large scale subsidies for meals (in the Inner London Education Authority, for example); there the abandonment of hot food altogether. What is - or ought to be - clear everywhere is that employing dinner ladies is no act of charity. They are employed, like all municipal staff, to provide a service which, the public often suspect, could be more cheaply provided by the private sector. That service the elected local authorities of Devon and Lincoln and Hertfordshire and Birmingham have decided, with misgivings, to keep, provided unit costs can be reduced. Monday's Division Court judgment will assist these and other councils in businesslike management.

For years Treasury and Environment ministers have been telling local authorities that they could provide an unchanged array of services at less cost. In vain: councils have replied that only major surgery on their activities would produce savings; the result has been the repeated breach of spending plan targets. This week's judgment, though it refers only to the single issue of dinner ladies' terms of employment, is important for it makes plain, for the first time, that a downward revision of council costs is possible without either a loss of employment or any major alteration in service.

Mr Justice Mann said merely that for Hertfordshire and East Sussex, employee terms and conditions negotiated on the council's behalf nationally do not form a binding part of local contracts with dinner ladies. He thus confirmed that negotiating arrangements for most local employees' pay - police and teachers are quite separate - are akin to an informal club. No penalties attach to members who leave unilaterally. As a matter of law this is a small point. As a matter of politics it could and should have ramifications.

The judgment is not likely to create anarchy in local pay bargaining nor disrupt any of the various employer and trade union clubs. Maybe it should. There is something faintly distasteful about local authorities which at one moment stand pat on their local freedoms and accountability and the next surrender their discretion to complex, unseen and largely

unaccountable national bargaining committees. When country-wide pay rates apply to manual workers or dinner ladies, where is the scope for local differences of cost and culture? During the past twenty years the done thing has been to embellish these national rates locally, to make additional payments here, give weightings there. The judgment opens the possibility that the trend may now be reversing. Birmingham, one of the councils in court (it went down because it did not follow the municipal rule-book to the letter), has been trying to pare down one of these accretions, to the pay system, retainer payments for dinner ladies during the summer vacation. On the wider canvass, perhaps the way is now open for uncoupling part-time rates from full-time payments altogether, to make part time employment more casual, flexible and cheap.

The converse of the substantial savings in cost which Hertfordshire and East Sussex may now reap is of course a drop in family income. Taken as a whole the public accounts may show an increase in the uptake of certain social benefits as a result, especially in those low income families where the wife's earnings have moved from the periphery to the centre of the household budget. But the answer to that problem is more part time work, not less. It certainly is not the continuing distortion of councils' financial management by immovable national deals on pay and conditions.

BRAZILIANS ON THE STREETS

The Brazilian liberalization process began in 1974, and sceptical observers have been heard to say that it must be the most long-drawn-out such process in recent Latin American history. But this last week's massive demonstrations - more than a million in the streets in both Rio and in Sao Paulo - bring a new intensity of pressure to bear on the government. They look like marking the real beginning of the end.

Their immediate aim is to bring pressure to bear on Congress for *Diretas Já*, direct free presidential elections this year, which the opposition will bring to the vote on April 25. President Figueiredo has declared his resolve to stick by indirect elections until 1988. The vote may go against him. Even if it does not, it is hard to see how the military government's authority can be restored. The present conjuncture is therefore the most critical in Brazilian politics for the last twenty years. As these twenty years have been ones of severely limited political expression, the outcome is the harder to predict. No Brazilian under the age of forty has voted in a free election. The fate of parties created for the limited politics of military tutelage is uncertain when the soldiers go. Many soldiers are aware of what has happened in Argentina, and many have been spectacularly

corrupt: the "Argentina effect" on them is hard to measure, but it is certainly one element in their current thinking.

There are nevertheless some general conclusions that can be drawn from observing the current confrontation, and they are clearer and at least as important as the short-term outcome. First, this is a general opposition: it embraces the unions, the workers' party and the radical church, but it also embraces the middle classes - far larger and more demanding middle classes than those of 1964 - and the entrepreneurs as well as the more easily recognized football stars, singers or sociologists, the cultural leaders of modern Brazil. Secondly, it is so far a moderate opposition, and likely to be the more effective and united for that. It unites not on class interests or social revolution but on political liberty. The most prominent leader, the Governor of Rio Leonel Brizola, has a radical nationalist past but hardly a radical nationalist current tone. At first sight this moderation can seem a surprising response to the austere terms of the last three years, the deepest recession of the last fifty. Thirdly, these two aspects together signal a loss of authority by the current government that certainly carries important implications for Brazil's creditors. It is a feature of Latin

America's current crisis that those who have lost authority are the authoritarians, and not simply through the bad luck of being in power when it struck. The effective government that is needed for negotiating the crisis can only be had through more politics, not less. It is possible that democracies are more effective than the various forms of authoritarian rule, and that people will accept from governments of their own choosing restraints that cannot be imposed on them.

Brazil has recently made extraordinary efforts, achieving a record trade surplus through a combination of drive abroad and import restriction at home, but it is unlikely by conventional extrapolations that the economy will right itself before the end of the decade. In these circumstances a prescription of relative political inertia until 1988 is perhaps simply unrealistic, and those who see such a formula as any sort of guarantee of stricter orthodoxy in the management of the country's economy are not realistic either. A popularly-elected government will of course be conscious of its origins when bargaining with Brazil's creditors. A military government near its end will be at least equally conscious of popular opposition. Neither can achieve the impossible, but the first has distinct practical advantages.

A balancing act on punishment

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust

Sir, It is difficult to understand your characterisation of the Home Secretary's penal policy as that of a "dogged empiricist" (leader, April 13). The very examples which you cite afford scant support for such an interpretation.

Mr Brittan's contribution to the capital punishment debate, in which he argued for the execution of terrorists as a special class of murderer, was based not on empiricism but on "the duty of the state to signal its total and absolute rejection for those who commit crimes that undermine its very foundations".

His changes in parole and life licence are predicated on similar grounds. For the evidence shows conclusively that those who have been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment are actually better people than those on short sentences. (Incidentally, it is not true that there are now determinate sentences for the most serious homicides. As the Home Secretary made clear at the Conservative Party conference, his policy specifies minimum periods of detention which may well be exceeded in certain cases.)

Your other examples are no more convincing. It would be difficult to think of any academic criminologist who would regard the massive expansion of prison building as a cost-effective use of resources. Weekend imprisonment has proved a notable failure in Holland and Belgium. The growth in community service orders has been brought to a virtual standstill.

On the basis of innumerable research studies the Home Office itself places far greater emphasis upon crime prevention, and attributes relatively little value to imprisonment as an instrument of crime control. Would it not be more accurate to interpret the Home Secretary's policy as a balancing act between his officials and the retributivists in his own party?

While you are right to draw attention to the shift in sentencing practice away from detention centres as a result of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, does not such an interpretation better explain Mr Brittan's announcement on short, sharp shocks than your own?

Yours faithfully,

STEPHEN SHAW, Director,

Prison Reform Trust,

Nuffield Lodge, Regent's Park, NW1.

April 13.

Future of steel

From the General Secretary of The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation

Sir, Far be it from me to defend the misconceived investment strategy followed by BSC in the 1970s, but Mr Montgomery, in his letter to you of April 9, makes a number of points which will not stand up.

Modernisation of the steel industry was undertaken under public ownership because the private sector had failed in the 1960s to do the job. There is plenty of evidence for this, some of it in the Conservative White Paper of 1973. Modernisation came late and in the wrong form, but it had to come.

As for demand, it was falling in the 1970s but it only really slumped after 1979, following the election of that year, and it is falling still. Faced with this result of its own actions, the Conservative Government, far from extending nationalisation as Mr Montgomery suggests, has privatised many parts of BSC and plans to privatise more.

These newly private firms do have a monopoly, but during the 1970s the United Kingdom consumer had a second, private-sector option if the public sector failed him.

Mr Montgomery's proposal to set up Shotton Works plc, or from being revolutionary would simply reinforce the trend of recent years, viz, a public asset with expensive kit put on show prior to sale at below its real price.

Yours sincerely,

W. SIRS, General Secretary,

The Iron and Steel Trades

Confederation,

Swinton House,

324 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

Threat to Opera 80

From Mr Denis McGeary

Sir, As an area arts association trying to bring the best of music and drama into an underserved area - and on a very stringent budget - we would be the first to applaud any move by the Arts Council to improve arts provision in the regions.

This may well be their intention with the recently announced reallocation of funds, but we find one of the notified "cuts" particularly baffling - that of the excellent and irreplaceable Opera 80.

We have promoted annual visits by Opera 80 ever since it was formed. Without exception, the productions have been outstanding on every level and audiences have flocked to see them - as indeed they

A businesslike view of the economy

From Mr Peter Gordon-Potts and Mr David Kingston

Sir, When the 364 academic economists made their statement three years ago there was virtually no response from others. Now that you have reopened the discussion, your Economics Editor (March 30) is right to ask for more "meeting of minds".

As a start, here are three aspects of the economy which economists in business may see rather differently from those whose experience is primarily academic.

1. Inflation is not just a technical aspect of the economy, something which can be dealt with by indication, leaving other things equal. High levels of inflation are themselves damaging: they erode the bases of commercial contracts, they sap confidence and encourage caution in the interests of survival.

Reduction in inflation brings, of itself, real and lasting benefits. Companies can apply their cash flow to productive investment and not merely to maintaining their working capital intact. The benefits are beginning to flow.

2. The level of employment is not simply a function of the level of activity. It has also been, especially in the past few years, a matter of not using substantially more people for a given output than are used in countries with which we compare and compete.

It is therefore a function of our national efficiency. For many plausible reasons we employed three people when other comparable countries employed only two. A condition had to be created to bring about employment comparability.

Academic economists believe that this condition was met by the creation of unemployment itself, in

fact, the impetus came from stringent monetary conditions leading to corporate losses, a spate of closures and threats of more.

The numbers in employment have fallen, not primarily because of "lack of demand" but because fewer people are needed to satisfy the same demand. Productivity and international competitiveness in manufacturing have improved substantially, due to improvements in technology and to a new corporate culture which is more efficient and cost-conscious. Some plants have been closed but new operating practices have been introduced in many of those which remain open. A firm footing has thus been created for future expansion.

3. Reducing inflation is not simply a function of the level of unemployment. It is the pressures of the "monetarist" environment which have brought about the change we have seen. What is more, productivity is now rising so rapidly in manufacturing industry and has so far to rise in many other sectors of the economy that the improvement in efficiency, with consequential benefits for inflation, looks to be well sustainable.

The proviso is that the Government retains the will and skill to ensure that all sectors of the economy operate in an environment of controlled, humane and consistent monetary discipline.

Yours faithfully,

PETER GORDON-POTTS (Group Economic Adviser, Imperial Group)

DAVID KINGSTON (Senior Economist, PA Management Consultants)

As from Imperial House, 1 Grosvenor Place, SW1.

April 11.

The voter's choice

From the Chairman of the Electoral Reform Society

Sir, Ronald Butt (feature, April 5) is absolutely right. He argues today that whatever bodies are formed to replace the GLC and ILEA should be directly responsible to the voters. The members should not gain their places by any form of indirect election, or appointment - which would inevitably be seen by the electorate as a fiddle.

I am sure the Government will appreciate the strength of voters' feelings on remoteness and lack of accountability and will not unnecessarily risk alienating support.

But surely Mr Butt did not choose his headline for such a purpose, "an X" is not right; it is absolutely wrong. X-voting polarises party differences. It discourages the able and independent. It distorts results and effectively disfranchises many electors.

Fears for the O level

From the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Secondary Examinations Council

Sir, Members of the Secondary Examinations Council have asked me to write to you expressing concern that your leading article of April 7 ("Classroom realism") misrepresents the arguments as means of rationalising syllabuses, but positively as means of reinforcing expected standards at all levels by clearer statements of what candidates of varying abilities know and can do.

We saw the national criteria which have been produced by the examining boards not just as a means of rationalising syllabuses, but positively as means of reinforcing expected standards at all levels by clearer statements of what candidates of varying abilities know and can do.

Yours faithfully,

W. H. COCKCROFT,

Chairman and Chief Executive,

Secondary Examinations Council,

Newcombe House,

45 Notting Hill Gate, W11.

Not so pedantic

From Miss Theresa Marreau

Sir, Philip Howard (April 9) advocates free use of the word "diabetic" to describe people with that disease. He accuses those of us who carefully avoid the word by referring to "people with diabetes", "children with diabetes", etc, of being pedants. At the risk of being thought a pedant by Mr Howard, I would like to take issue with him.

While I agree it probably doesn't matter if a new journal is named *Diabetic Medicine*, I do think it is mistaken to extend this indifference to our description of people. Use of the word "diabetic" implies that the

individual is defined by the disease; use of the phrase "a person with diabetes" avoids such an implication.

H. G. Wells may have felt happy to use the word "diabetic", but this is no reason to persist with such a habit.

Social science research tells us that the labels we attach to people influence how we think about them and behave towards them. A rose by any other name does not always smell as sweet.

Yours faithfully,

THERESA MARTEAU,

Department of Paediatrics,

John Radcliffe Hospital,

Headington, Oxford.

are doing right now, since the company is with us at the time of writing.

Our audiences' reaction to the announcement of Opera 80's imminent demise has been immediate and unmistakable. Hundreds have signed an open letter to the Arts Council, begging them to reconsider. As a promoting body, we feel extremely strongly.

Opera 80 is the only first-class, full-scale opera company we can offer our customers. It was formed specifically to tour areas like ours: there are few venues equipped to cope with the larger companies, even if they were available (and affordable). There can be no doubt that the company has fulfilled its brief brilliantly.

"The regions" consist of areas with scattered rural communities, as

well as large cities. Cumbria is only one of many regions which will regard the cutting of Opera 80 as a real blow and will be totally baffled as to the reasoning behind the decision.

We can only hope that the Arts Council may be persuaded to find some other solution in this particular case. Certainly the opera-lovers in this area are prepared to fight for what they have come to regard as their company.

Yours sincerely,

DENIS MCGEARY,

Executive Director,

Renaissance Theatre Trust,

Cumbria's Area Arts Association,

The Centre, Fountain Street, Ulverston, Cumbria.

April 6.

Tax on generosity in buying art

From the Chairman of the National Art-Collections Fund

Sir, Mrs Geraldine Norman (feature, April 14) points to the inevitable action which a British government must now take if it wishes to prevent an increasing number of our art treasures drifting overseas - tax concessions similar to those which are made in the United States. I fear that we shall lose more highly important works of art before adequate action is taken.

However, there is one small adjustment which the Government can easily make by removing a damaging VAT anomaly.

I doubt whether many people are aware that when a national or university museum or gallery buys a work of art at auction or through a dealer VAT has to be paid on the auction or dealer's commission. The only exception to this is municipal galleries. In the case of an overseas buyer, no VAT is payable.

In effect, the tax is designed to favour the overseas over the domestic buyer, even when the latter is purchasing for the national patrimony. In the case of expensive works of art the tax payable runs into many thousands of pounds and reduces the chances of our public galleries competing successfully against overseas buyers.

Members of the National Art-Collections Fund, who give freely of their own money to help secure works of art for the nation, are naturally indignant that a tax should be levied on their generosity. How is it that a Government which calls for the private sector to shoulder more of the burden of supporting the arts allows the tax system to frustrate this declared purpose? The solution is simple - zero-rate VAT on purchases by all public museums and galleries.

Yours faithfully,

NORMANBY, Chairman,

National Art-Collections Fund,

20 John Islip Street, SW1.

April 16.

Words and worship

From Mr Simon Preston

Sir, On reading Roger Scruton's excellent article (April 10) about the abandonment of *The Book of Common Prayer* in our churches and cathedrals and his conclusion that it is the clergy of the Church of England who arrogantly refuse to reconsider, I was immediately reminded of the correspondence which appeared in your columns around last Christmas about the declining number of boys entering our choir schools and cathedral choirs.

At the time it was argued that the fault lay more with the schools themselves rather than in anything inherently wrong with the tradition and the system, but surely one of the prime reasons for the apparent decline in interest is the lack of commitment from the clergy to the language of the services and hence to the role of the choirs within these liturgies.

The introduction of modern liturgies in the shape of the *Alternative Service Book* has been forced upon cathedral and parish church alike, regardless of their differing approach to worship; consequently this grim uniformity has tended to increase considerably congregational participation in cathedral services while at the same time reducing the role of the choir.

In the light of this lack of commitment to the traditional language of the Church of England and to the traditional role of the choir in the liturgy of the cathedrals, is there any wonder that parents of prospective choristers feel that perhaps they would rather not commit their son to the care of clergy whose aesthetic judgment must be in question?

Until the clergy come to their senses the efforts of musicians in the service of the Church to maintain the standard of singing which has been the envy of the rest of the world for so long will be largely wasted.

Yours faithfully,

SIMON PRESTON,

8 The Little Cloister,

Westminster Abbey, SW1.

April 10.

WRNS at sea

From Mr S. M. Mackenzie

Sir, Your statement on April 6 that Second Officer Nutall, WRNS, had become the first female member of a Royal Navy ship's company to live on board her ship at sea is not strictly accurate.

In late 1940 HMS *Fidelity* was commissioned at Barry Docks with a mainly French crew, all of whom had joined the Royal Navy. Amongst her officers was First Officer Barclay, WRNS, who played a fully executive role in running the ship and served on board until HMS *Fidelity* was torpedoed and lost with all hands in mid-Atlantic on December 31, 1942. Nine of the officers lost were British.

Whilst HMS *Fidelity* was not perhaps a typical Royal Navy warship but rather a latter-day Q ship, she was certainly the first (and probably the only) RN ship in which a female held an executive officer's post.

Yours faithfully,

S. M. MACKENZIE,

St Ronans,

8 Clayton Road,

Selsey,

West Sussex.

April 6.

Voice of experience

From Mr G. S. Nelson

Sir, Your correspondents may have inadvertently stumbled on the secret of longevity. Join a church choir.

Yours faithfully,

G. S. NELSON,

6 Bancroft Avenue,

East Finchley, N2.

April 15.

THE ARTS

Tony Palmer, the film and television director, tonight stages his first opera, *Turandot*, at the Theatre Royal in Glasgow. Some of the keys to Puccini's unfinished work, he writes, lie in the composer's private life

A vain quest for final reconciliation

The problem with *Turandot* is that Puccini left it unfinished. In 1924 the pains in his throat were finally diagnosed as cancer and, despite surgery in Brussels, he died without completing the music for the last two scenes. His pupil and friend Alfano somewhat reluctantly agreed to provide an appropriate end based upon the already existing libretto and Puccini's sketches. We now know that Toscanini, who conducted the premiere, edited Alfano's work, declaring that there was "too much Alfano and not enough Puccini". Recently, thanks to the efforts of Alan Sieveright among others, Alfano's original ending was performed at the Barbican. Unfortunately neither Alan Sieveright nor Alfano, it seems to me, approached the heart of the matter. It is not that Puccini failed to finish *Turandot* because he died of throat cancer; it is that he could not finish it.

The bulk of Puccini's creative output was written in less than two decades, between 1890 and 1908. Although he lived for a further 17 years, he only produced three one-act operas. *La Rondine*, described in the Ricordi score as an operetta, and an unfinished work. Yet here was a man who loved wine, women and song (more or less in that order), fast cars, motorbikes and yachts - in other words the good life. He needed to earn money, as he had no resources of his own other than the payments he received from his Milanese publisher, Ricordi. He did not announce after *Fanciulla* that he was retiring (like Silvestri); he did not suffer any major critical reverses. The public adored his work and performances of it were frequent and worldwide. Something must have happened, therefore, which stopped him in his tracks. And that something, I believe, provides a clue to the real meaning of *Turandot*.

Puccini had first met Elvira Gemignani, the wife of a merchant

from Lucca, in about 1880. He was 22. Four years later they eloped, and in 1886 she bore him his only child, a son, Antonio. Although Puccini had discovered the village of Torre del Lago, ten miles from Pisa, in 1884, he did not finally move into his own house there until the summer of 1900. The village, which had only 12 houses, was described by Puccini as his "Eden", his "Paradise".

Elvira's first husband died late in 1903, and on January 3, 1904, Elvira and Puccini were married. Almost immediately afterwards the Puccini household took on a full-time maid, Doria Manfredi. Doria had already worked for them as a part-time nurse (following a car accident involving Puccini) for almost a year, but now entered the Puccini establishment as an indispensable domestic helpmate to the most famous Italian alive.

Puccini's reputation as a ladies' man had some justification, but he seems to have behaved towards the 17-year-old Doria with impeccable restraint. Elvira, on the other hand, after ten years of an illegitimate relationship, was in no mood to tolerate any threat to her position. She began a campaign of deliberate vilification against Doria, accusing her of sexual provocation towards Puccini followed by consummation. She even demanded from the local priest - who had married them in 1904 - that he inform Doria's parents of the child's immorality and expel her from the village. Uncertain of the truth, the priest (who was, incidentally, only partially sighted) refused the girl Holy Communion.

Eventually, Doria could stand it no more and swallowed poison. The poison failed to work properly, and the girl took five days to die, screaming in agony for much of that time. The post-mortem found that Doria was still *virgo intacta*; consequently, Doria's parents brought an action against Elvira for defamation. Elvira lost in the courts, and was

sentenced to five months' imprisonment.

Puccini's relationship with Elvira, never stable, was wrecked. He refused to take her to New York for the premiere of the recently completed *La fanciulla*. In 1915 he wrote to her: "You sneer when the word 'art' is pronounced; this has always offended me, and offends me still." Elsewhere: "You... have poisoned my existence... You are mad!... I am leaving..." Of Doria, Puccini wrote to his friend Sybil Seligman: "I can't get her out of my mind - it's a continual torment."

I am not suggesting for one moment that the story of *Turandot* is a thinly disguised version of the story of Doria Manfredi. Far from it. Puccini had known the *commedia dell'arte* play by Count Gozzi, upon which the opera libretto is based, since 1880, and had actually considered it as a suitable subject for an opera on several occasions before the tragedy of Doria Manfredi. But I do believe that when, in 1919, Puccini wrote to one of his librettists, Simone, suggesting *Turandot* as a subject for an opera, he had by this time recognized in the story elements to which he responded in the most profound way. He plagued Simone and his fellow-librettists, Adami with endless changes and embellishments, even scribbling at one point in the margin "no one will ever understand this libretto, except me, because no one else will ever know what it is about". The character of Liù, the servant girl who dies for love, does not exist in the Gozzi play, nor in the first draft of the libretto. She was a character entirely of Puccini's invention. And Puccini even wrote to a friend that it was irrelevant whether *Turandot* was located in China: "It could just as well be set in Japan, or in Norway."

Was Puccini seeking to exorcise the nightmare of Doria Manfredi in the creation of Liù? Was his own complex relationship with Elvira

being explored through the relationship between Calaf and the Princess Turandot? Was Timur a memory of the partially sighted Roman Catholic priest of Torre del Lago, whose religion taught that Christ had died on the cross to save our souls? Were this all to be so, then the last two scenes of the libretto - which involve the reconciliation between Calaf and Turandot, after the death of Liù - must have been impossible for him to contemplate, since reconciliation in any heart-warming sense between Puccini and Elvira did not, and could not, take place. In other words, Puccini simply could not face the emotional and psychological implications of his own libretto.

Feverishly, he tried to solve his own riddle. It is known that he made at least thirty attempts to write music for the last scenes. But, like the many suitors of Turandot before Calaf, he failed. "All my music that I have written up to now seems to me a farce", he wrote. He hoped that the last duet would be the climax not only of the work but of his life. "Two beings... transformed into humans through love." But the memory, perhaps, of Doria and Liù and Cio-Cio-San, one and the same person in his imagination - except that Doria was not a dream but an immensely painful reality - proved too much.

At the first performance in Milan, Toscanini laid down his baton at the death of Liù, turned to the audience and said: "At this point, Puccini broke off his work. Death on this occasion was stronger than art." Such a melodramatic gesture is not enough. Quite apart from structurally unbalancing the opera, it is a million miles from the centre of Puccini's greatest work. And it is his greatest work: musically innovative, dramatically daring, full of invention, terse almost, certainly exhausting in its intensity, a direct challenge to the audience and performers alike.

Until the last scenes, the opera's text is permeated with religious guilt



Puccini while working on *Turandot* - "a man whose mind was racked with self-doubt"

and symbolism - Puccini's sister was a nun - above all with a horror of the idea that only through sacrifice can we achieve redemption and forgiveness. Until the death of Liù *Turandot* is a huge and passionate outburst against those who believe in the ideal of true love. Its genius is that it utters such a cry without bitterness or self-pity. It has a tragic dignity befitting a man whose mind was as racked with self-doubt as his body was with

cancer, who believed that life's progress was one of innocence dealt waste. In this context the last scenes, completed by Alfano, make no sense at all. Puccini hoped that they would be the climax of his creative life.

One final note. Among the earliest enthusiasts of *Turandot* was Igor Stravinsky. He saw it on approximately six occasions during the first year of its life. He was at the time writing his opera-oratorio *Oedipus Rex*.

Galleries

Edward Wolfe
Patrick Seale

One thing about the Cedric Morris exhibition at the Tate is that it inevitably starts one making invidious comparisons: if a figure as admittedly marginal as Morris is deserving of such an imposing commemoration, why not...? An obvious candidate for such treatment would surely be Edward Wolfe, who died in the same year, 1982, at almost as advanced an age (85), and was without doubt a far better painter than Morris.

Lacking as yet the major retrospective that seems to be called for, we can meanwhile get some idea of Wolfe's range and talents in the show *Edward Wolfe: Early Decorative Art - The Bloomsbury Period*, at the Patrick Seale Gallery, 2 Motcombe Street, until the end of the month. Wolfe's connexion with Bloomsbury was important in his career: he came over from his native South Africa at the age of 18, studied at the Slade, and got to know Nina Hammett, by whom he was introduced to Roger Fry and recruited to the Omega Workshops. The present show, despite its title, ranges over his whole career, but in another sense the label is justified, because he continued to be affected throughout his long working life by the particular local adaptation of Post-Impressionist colours and formal devices so enthusiastically promoted by Fry and promulgated through the relatively unquestioned channel of the decorative arts.

Not that Wolfe was ever content to be a passive follower in the wake of Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell. Some of the early works, notably a couple of very decorative abstractions, certainly come from the same world, but in general he incorporated such elements into his own highly individual and constantly evolving style. His landscapes, for instance, use a much richer palette than Grant's ever did, and at the same time show a more personal sense of the forms beneath the brilliant surface. His portraits have a similar strength but also, especially with the women, a delicacy which sometimes suggests Marie Laurencin. And it is impressive, as we move through the Thirties, to see how he can take the measure of such usually overwhelming influences as Picasso and the Mexican muralists, use as much as is useful to him personally, and discard the rest.

Perhaps the most striking thing about any collection of Wolfe's work is the clear, unfeigned delight he always took in the world around him, and the glow of pleasure with which he transferred it to canvas: he is, for a British painter, amazingly unpuritanical and trusting of the senses. But thoughtful too: the combination of sensuality and critical intelligence in his work imperatively demands a closer and longer look.

John Percival John Russell Taylor

What the Bishop actually said...

If you missed the Dumbleby lecture last night, you'll be pleased to know The Listener carries the full text of the Rt Rev David Sheppard's controversial and thought-provoking talk, today.

If you saw it, and heard what he said about poverty which "imprisons the spirit" and divides the nation, you will already know that it's a lecture worth keeping.

...in THE LISTENER out today!

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ENGLISHMEN'S Punch & CASTLES

Theatre

Volpone
The Pit

A portly young bourgeois, first thing in the morning, demands to see his heaped-up wealth. He states he is no merchant, no farmer, no entrepreneur; how did he get it? By running one of the most famous con-tricks in English comedy like a profitable business. Bill Alexander's fascinating production, premiered in Stratford last September, sees the most sinister aspect of *Volpone* as its mundaneness; instead of a wild farce, it is more often a black satirical comedy of the driest sort, holding the mirror up to everyday human greed and gullibility.

Calling matter-of-factly on gout, palsy and catarrh to aid his impersonation of an invalid, Richard Griffiths (who looks more like Henry VIII than ever in his final disguise as a Venetian official) sacrifices the poetic flights and swelling sensuality, but it is worth it for the nasty shock of seeing a Volpone so like ourselves. Selling medicine in the mountebank scene, he simply finds his natural profession: advertising. Miles Anderson's spivvy, sick-haired Mosca is a natural accomplice but also a backstreet survival fighter - stung, when the boss overextends, their charade for sheer pleasure as an actor and moral critic, to take steps that destroy both of them.



Richard Griffiths: "The nasty shock of seeing a Volpone so like ourselves"

Alison Chitty's set of sombre Jacobean panelling, converting into a gloomy and heavily-overlooked square or a deserted church for conspiratorial get-togethers, constantly suggests the solid interiors where business, not farcical impersonation, takes place. The bribes of the legacy-hunters are simply business ventures, and business tempts them to anything. John Dick's sunken-cheeked Corvino swings his wife's chastity belt like a shopping basket as he

switches from keeping her locked up to whoring her for gold. Henry Goodman's equally saturnine Voltore clearly spends nights sick with professional worry.

Partnering a Sir Politick (Bruce Alexander) who suggests a Foreign Office wisecracker, Griffiths gets things wrong. Gemma Jones parades her crudities, lusts visibly after a black court usher and berates her maid with the ruthlessness of the parvenu: as a pampered

wife, she is as much a parasite as Mosca. Rarely, and then only towards the end of its four hours, does the production cease to be funny or lose its beautifully assured grip on a leisurely, deadly pace. And, thanks to weirdly inventive visual comedy plus Guy Woolfenden's mischievous score, an unnerving grotesqueness always accompanies the grim depiction of man's degradation and folly.

Anthony Masters

Concerts

Hallé/Macal
Barbican

Bruckner has arrived at last at the Barbican. If the occasion was rather less auspicious than it might have been, it was a result less of inadequate playing than of Zdenek Macal's underestimation of what it takes to draw out the particular quality of the "Romantic" in his Fourth Symphony.

JEREMY IRONS
in the role of Swan
SWANN IN LOVE
"A JEWEL OF A FILM"
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Lumiere Cinema
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Mazurkevich Duo
St John's/Radio 3

Palm Court reared its head briefly in Smith Square on Monday at lunchtime, when the two-violin duo of Yuri and Dana Mazurkevich ended their recital with the smoochy duet *Navarra*, by Sarasate, in which scales cascaded in thirds from high in the ledger lines and the piano of Clifford Benson pounded with graceful abandon. There was also a touch too much Palm Court for my depravedly purist taste in the duo's voluptuous rendering of Handel's Trio Sonata, Op. 2 No. 4, with which they began. Both performances revealed the duo as well schooled in the Russian violinistic manner, intense and unrelenting in tone, but they also showed that Yuri had a firmer grasp of intonation than Dana, whose glissandi occasionally ended on not quite the right note.

The duo also gave two unaccompanied items. Among all those English composers of

is to cross the line from laboriousness to wonder. The simpler the phrase, the more care it needs in the moulding: the more basic the rhythmic unit, the more its inner energy and cumulative potential must be sapped. As it was, tension was built too often by crude volume contrast alone; metre was underworked, silence underexploited.

A similar sense of constriction muted an otherwise creditable performance of Elgar's Cello Concerto. Robert Cohen's own reading of the work is becoming more concentrated, more closely and privately

the last generation whom we are repeatedly told are being neglected. Alan Rawsthorne stands very high, and a revival such as this of his 1937 Theme and Variations for two violins proves that his music should never be out of the repertoire. This small masterpiece shows the same command of string writing as his taut Second and Third Quartets and the Violin Sonata for Seigrist, and the characterization of each variation - the Anglicised Bartok of violent octaves over a folk-like melody, or the stuttering noises of muted dissonances - is managed with consummate skill.

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THE SOUTH

Hilary Finch

If the duo did not here reveal all the colouristic sharpness in what was presumably an unfamiliar idiom, they brought too gaudily coloured brush strokes to the more demonstrative intricacies of Spohr's Duo in E major of 1816. Here some problems tuning the multiple stopping threatened to turn the music sour, but the weight and vigour of the playing, especially in the virtuosic opening Allegro and the final polonaise-style Rondo, overcame its stylistic limitations. A modest but worthwhile contribution to the current Spohr bicentenary.

Nicholas Kenyon

PURE MAGIC AT STRATFORD!
William Shakespeare's
HENRY V
"A truly magnificent production" - Times
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Kenneth Branagh's Henry V: "Beholds a rich Shakespearean future for this young actor" - Guardian
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WORLDWIDE**

INDUSTRIAL GROUP	513.65 (517.61)
500 SHARE INDEX	569.06 (567.49)
*EARNINGS YIELD	9.56% (9.70%)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.23% (4.24%)
P.E. RATIO (NET)	12.74 (12.71)
ALL SHARE INDEX	524.02 (523.02)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.41% (4.41%)
* estimated	(previous close)

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A lucky hit on the borrowing target

Public borrowing in 1983-84 was remarkably close to target - £9.8 billion compared with the £10 billion predicted by the Treasury last autumn and again at Budget time. But this unusual accuracy was something of a fluke. Without the suspension of Britain's £516m EEC budget rebate due last month, the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) would have been about £9.3 billion, slap in line with City estimates.

Not that the City was particularly pleased with yesterday's figures, which showed higher than expected March borrowing of £1.97 billion. Gifts were accordingly marked down 2½, but the markets found it hard to get excited over past history. Nothing in the figures upsets the general consensus that the Government's £7.2 billion borrowing target for 1984-85 is well within reach - especially since the overdue EEC rebate will now come through in this financial year.

The Government can afford itself a gentle pat on the back. There was no repetition of last year's eleventh-hour spending scramble by government departments, helped perhaps by new rules which permit some carryover of unspent allocations. Spending over the year was 7.75 per cent higher than in 1983-84, a bigger increase than the 5.5 per cent planned, but a good deal less than was feared last autumn.

State industries finished the year having borrowed a remarkably low £100m (after grants and subsidies), compared with the £700m predicted at Budget time. Officials are said to be pretty relaxed about the course of central government spending in the present year, now planned to rise 5.5 per cent, marginally more than inflation.

But town hall spending remains a headache. Last year local councils overspent their budgets by about £1 billion, forcing the Government to give them £600m extra this year to help keep services going. Even so, they will feel the squeeze; the Budget Red Book shows an increase of only 2.5 per cent in their total spending (including interest) in 1984-85, compared with actual spending in 1983-84, which means a sizable cut in real resources. Already it seems clear they will need at least another £800m. By the end of the year, with agriculture costing ever more and the social security budget inexorably rising with the dole queues, ministers may be only too glad of their £2.75 billion spending reserve.

The Prudential thinks big

Are Britain's insurance companies, considered one of groups most vulnerable to the winds of change ruffling Britain's financial services, likely to form links with the mighty clearing banks and building societies?

This was the intriguing thought to emerge yesterday from a speech given to The International Bar Association by Mr Brian Corby, chief executive of Britain's largest insurer, the Prudential Corporation, who is widely considered to be the country's most dynamic insurance chief. Significantly, Mr Corby drew attention to the financial industries of South Africa and Canada, which are dominated by combined groups of banks, insurance companies, building societies and security dealers.

Britain's insurance companies have been warned by the Government, in no uncertain terms, to expect competition. The building societies want to move in, the Citicorp of the United States intends

to play a hand, and there are harbingers of movement and merger throughout the City.

As Mr Corby rightly points out, the setting up of a new intermediary insurance business increases, but does radically alter, the nature of the competition. He is worried about the emergence of all-embracing financial groups offering their own insurance products through their own retail outlets.

Mr Corby agrees that there are too many insurance companies and building societies today, but is fearful that after the dust settles there may be too few. And he questions whether a building society could fairly claim that its own insurance products were the best when insisting that a customer for housing finance needs insurance.

Interestingly, the Building Societies Association has recently been making palcatory noises about establishing "new relations" with the insurance companies that provide them with some £250m of commission a year. Obviously, the building societies pose the greatest threat to insurance companies and to the clearing banks retail operations.

At present, the insurance companies and building societies are restricted by law from moving outside of their own areas of activity. But that can change, and quickly. New technology, Mr Corby says, "has now developed from merely helping us to do our business more effectively to enabling us to do other businesses as well at little additional cost. The potential for the future is clearly enormous".

Mr Corby argued that it may be appropriate to extend Professor Gower's investor protection recommendations into a broader review of the financial services

And - perhaps unsurprisingly - he concluded that there was a need to put the various financial institutions on a more equal footing, "particularly where their areas of activity overlap".

Trafalgar House listens to P & O

These days we tend to regard annual meetings as little more than a day out for the small shareholders. But yesterday Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House, and Mr Ian Fowler, his company secretary, felt it was worth their while to exercise their rights and hear Mr Jeffrey Sterling's words of wisdom at the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation company's meeting.

Mr Brookes wanted to hear what Mr Sterling had to say about P & O in last week's letter, responding to Trafalgar's reservations about the P & O accounts.

Before the meeting Mr Brookes said he was there to listen, not to speak. After he had listened and not spoken and the 90-minute meeting had ended he said he was still not entirely satisfied.

Mr Sterling had said first, that some extra corporation tax would be paid over the next three years; second, that there would be no need to establish a deferred tax account out of existing stockholders' funds; and, third, that there could be a need for P & O's associates to make a provision. P & O's share, he said, is unlikely to be greater than £20m. When told of Mr Brookes' continuing reservations, Mr Sterling said no-one could possibly clarify the true position until the Finance Bill goes through. That, however, is not likely until July - several weeks after the date on which Trafalgar House is entitled to renew its bid for P & O.

Barclay twins recoup £44m with Cameron brewery sale

By Derek Pais

Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, the McEwan and Younger group which has for long sought to extend its retail operations, is to take over J. W. Cameron and Co the Hartlepool Brewery which has 540 public houses and off-licences, it was announced yesterday.

The deal, subject to Office of Fair Trading clearance, valued Cameron at £44.5m. It was clinched against strong bidding from other interested breweries.

Cameron last changed hands only five months ago when the hotel-owning Barclay twins - David and Frederick - paid a reputed £44m for the parent Ellerman Lines brewing to shipping group.

After the Cameron sale Ellerman still embraces Toller-mache and Cobbold Breweries of East Anglia and extensive shipping interests.

It was the heavily-losing



David Nickson: handing over nine of his hotels

shipping fleet which forced Ellerman, a private company owned by charitable trusts, to seek a buyer. Mr David Barclay said yesterday: "The shipping losses have now been stopped and we are heading for profit this year."

The brothers decided to sell

Cameron because a Northern brewery did not fit in with its interests. Part of the cash proceeds will be used to develop their other activities, including the revitalized shipping line.

They also intend to extend Toller-mache and would like to acquire a southern brewery which would dovetail with the East Anglian group.

The takeover lifts the Scottish and Newcastle pubs and off-licence chain to 2,200. This is low compared with other major brewing groups and Scottish and Newcastle, which itself has often been the subject of takeover speculation, it needs more tied outlets to give more marketing muscle in its battle for "free" trade outlets such as clubs and supermarkets.

Scottish and Newcastle, is Britain's largest "free" trade brewery. Its own pub account for only 17 per cent of its output. In the past few years the group's trading outlook has

improved dramatically. For the current year City analysts are forecasting profits of up to £55m.

The group, headed by Mr David Nickson, is paying £35m cash for Cameron and handing nine of its Thistle hotels, valued at £9m, to the Barclay brothers. It has raised the cash by placing shares among institutional investors at 112p each. The shares fell yesterday 2½p to 116½p.

The share placing is conditional on the takeover going through. Cameron produced profits of £3.7m last year, compared with only £517,000 in the previous year when it was hit by a long-running strike. Its peak profit of £4.4m was achieved in 1979.

The opening round in the hard-fought legal battle for control of another northern brewery, T & R Theakston, has gone to the Lancashire brewery Matthew Brown & Co.

Co-op Bank profits up but tax dent looms

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Co-operative Bank, the innovative clearing bank owned by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, yesterday reported much improved profits for last year and it expects gross profits to increase again this year. But the Budget tax changes will take a big chunk out of this year's net profits, possibly as much as £5m.

It will be the second time in four years that the group's retained profits have been sharply reduced by government measures. The bank was one of the worst sufferers from the original windfall tax on the banks which absorbed nine-tenths of its 1981 earnings.

Pretax profits last year, recovered from £1.7m to £7.5m, helped by reduced losses of £500,000 in the finance house subsidiary First Co-operative Finance, which lost £2.3m in the previous year. The improvement within the bank reflected cost-cutting measures, growth and the pay-back from past investments. Co-operative Bank had made virtually no provision for deferred tax on leasing. Because of the Budget changes it has provided £2.9m as an extraordinary item in last year's accounts, which reduced retained profits for the year to £3.9m, and it may now have to make a further £5m provision

Ford's profits drop despite sale record

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Ford of Britain, which has recently announced investment plans totalling more than £280m, yesterday revealed pre-tax profit figures for last year of £178m, a dip of £16m on 1982.

The pretax profits were made on turnover up from £3.287m in 1982 to £3.585m in 1983. Once again, the British company was boosted by interest earned on loans to the American parent; net interest and other income was £80m.

The British company issued a special discount note for £645m during the year which is not due for repayment until January 1987, however, Ford US repaid short-term promissory notes of £387m.

Ford UK stressed yesterday that its post-tax profit for 1983 of £142m (down £50m) was badly affected by further extraordinary charges of £245m, leading to a loss for the year of £103m. These charges are a £200m provision to meet deferred taxes arising from the Budget's proposed changes in capital allowances and corporation tax, and £45m to cover factory closure costs.

The company said that while 1983 was a year when the whole motor industry was facing competitive pressures, Ford cars sales in the UK rose to a record 518,048, an increase of 43,856. Dagenham and Halewood produced 54 per cent of the Ford's sold in Britain.

£15m silicon plant for UK

A £15m investment by an independent American company, Integrated Power Semiconductor (IPS), at Livingston, West Lothian, was announced yesterday.

The plant, the latest addition to the "Silicon Glen", will manufacture integrated power circuits and will provide 500 jobs by 1989.

IPS was formed by a group of Californian electronic specialists and the project ranks as one

of the biggest investments by the private sector in an independent venture.

The funding was drawn together by 3i Ventures from New Market Venture Capital, Charterhouse Japhet, APA Venture Fund and CITI Industrial Investment. They are calculated to have provided about £9m towards the project, with £5m from the Government.

Boost for Rowntree

Shares of Yorkshire-based Rowntree Mackintosh surged 26p to a record 284½ amid growing speculation of an imminent bid. More than 1 million shares changed hands in active trade with two Swiss groups Nestlé and Jacobs Suchard tipped as the most likely contenders.

Nestlé, which last week revealed plans for its first issue in 10 years, was quick to deny the speculation. But a spokesman for Jacob Suchard refused to comment.

At last night's close Rowntree was valued at nearly £400m, but dealers estimate that a bid, if it is to succeed, would need to be between 350p and 400p a share.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1110.2 up 4.6 (day's high 1112.9, low 1104.8)
FT Index: 879.8 up 4.8
FT 100 Index: 62.03 down 0.04
Birmingham: 22.534
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 113.51 down 0.06
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average (futures) 1165.10 up 4.82
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,905.40 down 113.27
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index 1,088.12 up 12.64
Amsterdam: 172.3 down 0.5
Sydney: AO Index 763.0 down 1.83
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1031.9 up 8.0
Brussels: General Index 154.37 down 0.26
Paris: CAC Index 171.3 up 0.3
Zurich: SBA General 311.50 up 0.6

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4205 down 5pts
Index 79.8 unchanged
DM 3.7450 down 0.0090
FF 11.5525 up 0.0075
Yen 320.00 down 0.0075
Dollar Index 127.5 down 0.1
DM 2.6425 up 0.0085
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4205
Dollar DM 2.6425
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.595131
SDR £0.742674

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate 8½
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 8½ - 9½
3 month interbank 8½ - 8¾
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10½ - 11
3 month DM 5½ - 5¾
3 month FF 13½ - 13
US rates:
Bank prime rate 12.00
Fed funds 10½
Treasury long bond 9½ - 9¾
ECB Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period March 7 to April 3, 1984 inclusive: 8.976 per cent.

£21m increase for Hawker

● Hawker Siddeley Group, the international electrical and engineering company, has increased pretax profits from £116.2m to £137.5m for the year to December 31, 1983. Turnover also increased from £1,407m to £1,457m. The final dividend of 7.1p makes 11p for the year compared with 9.8p last time. *Temper, page 18*

● S Pearson & Son, owner of the *Financial Times*, Penguin Books and the Royal Doulton china group, announced a £17.5m increase in pre-tax profits to £77.4m. This was more than expected and the company's shares rose 37p to 538p. A final dividend of 9p is being recommended, raising the total for the year by a quarter to 14p. *Temper, page 18*

● Northern Engineering Industries yesterday announced an 8 per cent rise in pretax profits to £42.2m on sales of £872m (£867m). The dividend is raised from 4.75p to 5.25p, and the group reported a sharp improvement in group liquidity and a continuing strong order book. *Temper, page 18*

● ADWEST GROUP: Interim 1.5p (1.4p adj), pay June 6. (figures in £000) Pretax profit 2,653 (2,401) for half year to December 31, 1983 Tax 1,173 (791). Minorities 33 (20). Extraordinary debt nil (224). Shares 148 down.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$380.30 pm \$380.20
close \$380.00-\$380.50 (£267.25-£267.75)
New York (latest): \$380.50
Krugerrand (per coin):
\$391.392.50 (£275-276)
Sovereigns (new):
\$89.25-\$90.25 (£82.75-83.50)
*Excludes VAT

Pensions tax plea

By Ronald Faux

The Government was yesterday urged not to remove tax relief on contributions to pension funds. Mr J. A. Edmondson, chairman of the Scottish Life Assurance Company said in Edinburgh at the first annual meeting of the company to be attended by the press in more than a century, that too often press rumours carried the authenticity of a leak and when it received support from no less than the Governor of the Bank of England, it could not be ignored.

"It is being argued that the tax relief given on contributions to pension funds is a special privilege which should be swept away in the interests of giving the individual greater freedom to invest his savings as he wishes. This argument overlooks the fact that an employer may choose to pay pensions to retired employees out of current income. I urge the Chancellor not to take action which would destroy the occupational pension schemes."

NEWS IN BRIEF

168 oil tankers are idle

A total of 168 giant oil tankers totalling 50 million deadweight tons have now been laid up by world ship owners, the London shipbrokers E A Gibson reported yesterday.

The total, up by 2 million tons on a month ago, is the result of continuing lack of business out of the Middle East Gulf. There are currently 13 crude oil carriers of 3.5 million deadweight tons awaiting cargoes in the Gulf, and another 15 ships are due in the area in the next two weeks.

● THE GOVERNMENT'S latest sale of shares in Associated British Ports was oversubscribed yesterday when the application list closed despite Monday's sudden fall in the stock market.

Final details will be published today, but Schroder Wagg, the merchant bank handling the issue said the indications were that the issue had been oversubscribed between one and two times. The striking price at which shares are allotted is still

expected to be in the 270p to 280p range, compared with the minimum tender price of 250p.

● THE BRITISH NATIONAL Oil Corporation in its first full year of operation in the sole role of oil trader has achieved the Government's target of making a small profit while still being able to control North Sea oil prices.

BNOC, which by law handles the sale of at least 51 per cent of North Sea oil, handled an average of 13 million barrels of oil a day and had an annual turnover of £8 billion. Its after-tax profit was £300,000.

● AMERICAN EXPRESS, the US financial group, last night denied that it was selling Fireman's Fund, its troubled insurance subsidiary.

● THE ATTEMPTS BY Britain's clearing banks to buy into Stock Exchange firms have all been cleared by the trade department on the advice of the Office of Fair Trading.

The verdict against a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission covers Barclays' interests in Wedd, Durlacher and de Zoete & Bevan, Natwest's stake in Bisgood, Bishop and Midland subsidiary Samuel Montagu's link with W. Greenwell.

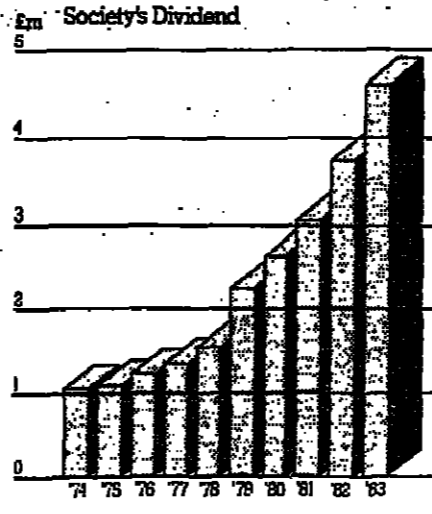
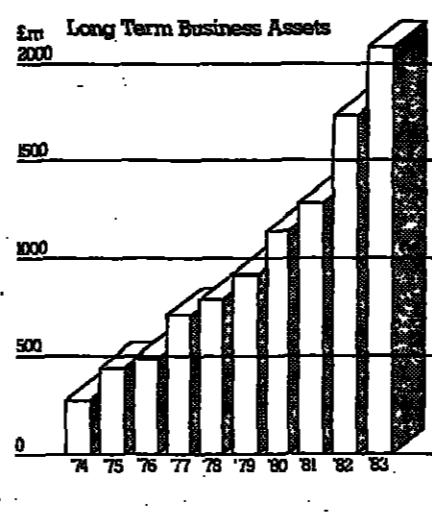
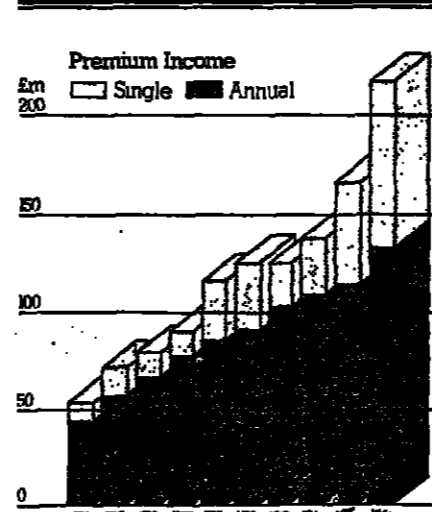
● CITICORP, AMERICA'S LARGEST bank and rapidly expanding as a substantial UK financial supermarket, has been tipped as the latest buyer for takeover favourite Hogg Robinson, the insurance and travel group.

Hogg's shares refused to follow the market down on Monday and shed only 2p to 202p. Two stockbroking firms say that on trading grounds the shares are overvalued above 190p.

Citicorp has obtained permission from the US Federal Reserve Board to enter the UK life insurance market and says it has a list of potential candidates. Hogg has consistently denied bid rumours.

1983 - Another very successful year for Equity & Law

Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr P D J H Cox, and the Report and Accounts for 1983



- * Total premiums 29% up on 1982. New business increased substantially, both at home and overseas.
- * Shareholders' earnings up 21.5% and dividend increased similarly from 18.5p to 22.5p per share. Dividends more than doubled over last four years.
- * Share split proposed - 5 new shares of 1p each for every existing share of 5p.
- * Much the greater part of Equity & Law's new business is unaffected by the withdrawal of Life Assurance Premium Relief in the recent Budget.

- * Equity & Law is in a strong position at home and overseas. We have excellent products and expert sales staff backed by efficient, well trained staff in head offices and the branches. I am therefore confident that Equity & Law is well able to respond to changing conditions and that the outlook for shareholders' earnings remains excellent.

	1983 £ million	1982 £ million	Increase %
New annual premiums	33.8	26.9	25.7
Single premiums	84.7	54.3	56.0
Total premium income	217.5	168.1	29.4
Long Term Business assets	2,078	1,716	21.1
Earnings	4,538	3,735	21.5
Dividends	4,519	3,718	21.6

For a copy of the Report and Accounts incorporating the Chairman's Statement and a full Review of 1983, fill in this coupon

The Secretary, Equity & Law Life Assurance Society plc,
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 5AL

Name: _____
(please print)

Address: _____

Equity & Law

Comfort Hotels doubles profits

By Jeremy Warner

Comfort Hotels International more than doubled its profits last year.

On sales up from £26.5m to £32.3m, pretax profits rose from £1m to £2.4m. Included in the results is a first time contribution of £200,000 to £300,000 from the Londonderry Mayfair which was acquired last March.

The chairman, Mr Henry Edwards, said the company was confidently expected to continue its progress and would be recommending a final dividend of 0.52p lifting the total for the year from 0.65p to 0.74p.

Strikes Restaurants, the group's separately quoted USM offshoot, made pretax profits of £791,000 against £659,000 last time. It is paying a final dividend of 1.1p making a total for the year of 1.6p.

Contracts have been exchanged for Stripes to purchase a 60 per cent interest in Croissants de Provence (French France) to be satisfied by the issue of 85,106 new shares. It has an option to buy the remaining shareholding in due course.

Croissants de Provence has two mainly take-away outlets in London which it supplies with French croissants and pastries from its own bakery. It is forecasting profits of not less than £30,000 for 1985.

Comfort Hotels said that all the indications were that the progress recorded in 1983 would be continued into the current year through a broadly-based improvement in occupancy and average room rate. With better occupancy levels, Comfort was able to reduce its degree of discounting last year.

And this month it put through a series of increases in prices which averaged 7 per cent.

Comfort Lodge, the company jointly owned with British Land, has made progress in realizing its aim of having five lodges operating by the end of 1985.

Construction of the first hotel, which aims to provide three-star value at a two-star price, will start shortly at Swansea and is due to open in the Spring of next year.

The Abingdon Room which is a new addition to the Rainbow Suite and Kensington Exhibition Centre opened on schedule this week and has already been chosen as the venue for a number of exhibitions over the next two years.

A recent revaluation of the freeholds of the Park Plaza, Viceroy and Charles Dickens Hotels in London has produced a surplus over book value of £6.5m.

Dayville's Ice Cream, which Comfort hopes to float on the unlisted securities market in a few years, continued to make progress last year.

Scottish Life Chairman's Statement

Extracts for Year Ended December 1983

1983 NEW BUSINESS

- New Life Annual Premiums associated with mortgages up 88% on last year.
- Group single premiums up 79% on last year.
- Total assets now exceed £750 million.

UNIT-LINKING

- The Company has entered the unit-linked market with five new contracts offering links to ten funds.
- Separate fund force has been established and already well in excess of £10 million has been invested.

THE FUTURE

- In spite of untimely removal of Life Assurance Premium Relief, the Company is confident that it can continue to offer competitive contracts in the areas of savings and family protection.



STOCK MARKET REPORT

Swiss bid talk lifts Rowntree to record

By Michael Clark

The gnomes of Zurich have acquired a taste for shares of Rowntree Mackintosh and were behind yesterday's flurry of activity which saw the shares leap 26p to a record 284p.

It now looks as though a bid for the Yorkshire-based Yorkie-to-Kat sweets manufacturer may be just around the corner with the Swiss companies, which claim to know a thing or two about chocolate, leading the assault.

At last night's close Rowntree was capitalized at nearly £400m and dealers were talking of a bid of between 350p and 400p a share. The Rowntree board broke off from yesterday's annual meeting with shareholders to deny any rumours it had already received an approach.

A spokesman said: "The board is not aware of any reason for the activity in the share price." Favourable to make a bid are the Swiss food group's Nestlé and Jacobs Suchard. Only last week, Nestlé announced plans for a rights issue.

Spring is a strange time to be discussing Christmas but it is all they talk about these days round at Park Foods, Britain's largest distributor of Christmas hampers. Sales are expected to climb from 500,000 hampers to nearly 700,000 this year which has enabled the share price to rally to 93p - just 2p short of last year's tender price. The board now may use this renewed confidence in the shares to launch a series of acquisitions.

— Its first in 10 years - despite already sitting on a strong balance sheet.

Last night a spokesman for Nestlé said from its headquarters in Vevey, Switzerland, there was "no truth in the rumours".

In Zurich, a spokesman for Jacobs Suchard refused to comment on the suggestions it was preparing to launch a bid. Dealers estimate that more than a million shares in Rowntree changed hands yesterday and the bulk of these will have found their way across the Alps.

The overnight rally on Wall Street paved the way for a firmer performance on the London market after Monday's shake-out - the worst in nearly two and a half years. Prices were marked higher at the outset helped by some good figures from Hawker Siddeley, up 36p at 453p, after 461p, and takeover speculation.

However, the fast approaching Easter break, tomorrow's NIM delegate meeting, rising interest rates and the long three

week account combined to make sure prices closed below their best levels as the buyers again retreated to the sidelines.

The FT index closed 4.6 up at 879.8 having been 7.0 higher earlier in the day. The new FT-SE 100 rose by a similar amount to 1110.2.

Gills remained agitated by the economic outlook on both sides of the Atlantic and continued to lose ground in quiet trade. Falls closed above their worst levels of the day which extended to 1½ in longs and 1½ in shorts.

Grattan enjoyed a rise of 6p to 94p after the board lunch with stockbroker Williams de Broe in the City. Williams de Broe continuing to recommend the shares as a "buy" for recovery. The rest of the retail sector has a quieter time than of late with Carrys again meeting profit taking losing 7p to 351p.

Investors attention has been focused on Currys by the price Woolworth is prepared to pay for rival Comet. Comet ended the day unchanged at 22p, while Woolworths advanced 7p to 513p.

Waterford Glass rose 13p to a new high of 44p following news of an approach which could lead to an offer being made for the issued share capital of the Irish crystal cut-glass manufacturer. At this level Waterford is valued at £93m.

Crest Holdings owns just over 20 per cent of the shares and is tipped as the likely bidder. Irish Life Assurance also holds between 5 per cent and 10 per cent of the issued equity.

Arthur Henriques, the textile group, has also received an approach and responded with a rise of 7p to 39p, after 45p. The group at this level is worth £1.56m and its biggest shareholder remains the ITC Pension Fund with 10 per cent of the shares.

On a timely note, broker Montagu Loeb Stanley has been taking a look at the miner's strike and those companies most affected by the action. AAH, down 1p at 111p, should be bought on the first signs of an end to the strike, or further weakness. Dobson Park, 1p lower at 34½p, is also worthy of a buy recommendation and there are hold recommendations for Dowty Group, unchanged at 126p, and Burnett & Hallamshire, down 10p at 180p. The only sell is Hargreaves Group, 1p shy at 83p.

In shipping John I Jacobs slid 1p to 53p after Jacobs and Partners announced they had sold 1.5 million shares reducing their total holding from 6.51 per cent to 3.97 per cent of the total. The big High Street clearing

banks failed to hold on to their early leads as nervous selling developed. Lloyds Bank lost 3p to 619p after broker Wood Mackenzie decided they were no longer worthy of a buy recommendation.

Wood Mackenzie says the shares have performed extremely well since the figures and budget. But uncertainty over Latin American debts over the next few months could prove unsettling. As a result it is now only recommending the shares as a hold.

Barclays lost 3p to 479p along with National Westminster 3p lighter at 652p. Only Midland closed up on the day after news of last week's losses from Crocker in the US with the price adding 5p to 369p.

The leading insurance companies spent another lacklustre day as the sector endured a further welter of bearish circulars. Analysts recommend investors continue to take profits in Commercial Union, down 3p

The investment trust, Gresham House has decided to sell some of its holdings in the USM-quoted Resource Technology, the exploration services group. The broker Grieseson Grant placed 1.4 million shares this week and there was a further 250,000 shares placed by another seller yesterday. The shares have all been placed with institutions and reduces Gresham House's stake to 1.3 million shares (14.4 per cent). Resource rose 9p to 174p yesterday.

at 22p, and Phoenix, up 4p at 470p, after recent speculative support.

Among leading industrials BTR lost 3p to 473p, while Becton added 2p to 323p. Blue Circle 2p at 413p, BOC Group 8p at 187p, Bowater 1p at 323p, GEC 3p at 184p, Glaxo 15p at 875p and Tate & Lyle 3p at 413p.

Even ICI managed to put in a late spurt helped by renewed buying from the US where the shares remain a firm favourite with investors. The shares closed 14p dearer at 608p.

There was selective support for oils with BP climbing 5p to 495p after taking delivery of a new oil rig for the North Sea. Shell added 3p to 643p along with Tricentral 3p to 208p. Lasso 2p to 333p, Ultramar 5p to 692p, Weeks Bermuda 10p to 385p, British 5p to 265p, while Barmak closed unchanged.

Equity turnover on April 16, was £283.01m (23.014). The total number of British and Irish shares traded was 64.9m. Gift bargains totalled 3.871.

Fisons to take over Spanish company

Fisons has received the Spanish Government's approval to acquire Roncales, a Zaragoza pharmaceutical company, which trades as Laboratories Casen, for £1.6m cash. Casen markets a range of medical specialty products.

After the completion of the necessary formalities, Fisons will construct a new pharmaceutical factory with sterile finishing and chemical processing facilities.

The Fisons chief executive, Mr J. S. Kerridge, said that the acquisition would provide Fisons pharmaceutical division with a sound base from which to expand its activities in Spain. This also completes the network of pharmaceutical subsidiaries in leading European markets.

In brief

● **SPONG HOLDING:** (Figures in £000). Sales 1767.8 (1023.8) for 1983. Pretax profit 36.7 (loss 101.9). Extraordinary dividends nil (104.8). EPS 0.33p (loss 2.8p).

Results were achieved by improved performance from the existing businesses and by a first time contribution from Bacchante which was acquired last April and Bridge Products acquired last October.

● **HARRIET THREE WELL:** The Harriet Three Well, offshore Western Australia, has recovered high quality oil at a maximum stabilized rate of 3,276 barrels a day in a drill stem test through a 7½-inch choke bond. The test also flowed 1.63 million cubic feet of gas.

● **BRITISH AEROSPACE:** Sir Austin Pearce, the chairman, has told shareholders that the year has started with money in the bank and with ample facilities from banks to meet funding requirements, including its share of the A320 programme.

● **BRISTOL OIL AND MINERALS:** Acceptances for the recommended offers by Bristol to acquire Osprey have been received in respect of 1,071,794 ordinary shares (£2.43 per cent). Accordingly, Bristol now controls 1,206,795 existing ordinary shares (99.28 per cent).

● **TARMAC:** Tarmac construction has acquired a 70.84 per cent shareholding in Pasco Engineering of Harrow for £1,755m. Pasco provides management, consulting and engineering services to oil, gas, petrochemical and related industries.

● **JACKSONS:** The company has agreed to sell land having a balance sheet value of £425,000 for £375,000, payable in cash. The purchase is a private company and the completion is due on April 27.

● **T C HARRISON:** Final 1.68p making 2.3p (2.2p adj) for 1983. (Figures in £000). Turnover 92,688 (81,440). Trading profit 3,699 (3,155). Interest 488 (135). Pretax profit 3,211 (3,020). Tax 303 (1,042). Extraordinary charge 1,740 (nil). EPS 12.89p (8.77p adj).

● **B. S. G. INTERNATIONAL:** Dividend 0.65p making 1p for 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 288,300 (258,200). Trading profit 7,467 (3,422) being vehicle distribution 3,195 (1,992). Manufacturing 4,272 (1,430). Interest 4,200 (4,713). Pretax profit 3,267 (1,291) loss. Tax 522 (609). Minorities 218 (299). Extraordinary debt 359 (1696).

● **HARRISON COWLEY (HOLDINGS):** Final 2.95p making 4.55p (4.2p) for 1983. (Figures in £000). Sales 20,694 (17,642). Pretax profit 710 (557). Tax 345 (302). EPS 7.3p (5.1p).

● **FRAWLEY GROUP:** Hawley has completed the purchase of 77.9 per cent of Fraser Henderson for £190,389 to be satisfied by the issue of 226,652 ordinary shares credited as fully paid and payment of £8,692 cash.

● **STEEL BROTHERS HOLDINGS:** Final 9p making 13p (11.5p) for 1983. (Figures in £000). Group turnover 119,566 (128,898). Pretax profit 11,061 (10,016), after interest 1,890 (4,173) and depreciation 4,107 (3,819). Tax 3,671 (3,098), minorities 669 (306). Extraordinary credits 5,175 (debits 186).

PINECHURCH UNITED STATES GROWTH FUND LIMITED

(Incorporated in Bermuda as an Exempt Company)

The Board announce the following unaudited results for the interim period ended 27th March of the year ending on 30th September 1984.

	Period 1.10.83-27.3.84	Comparative Period 1.10.82-29.3.83
Dividend earnings (net)	US\$ 101,520	US\$ 177,056
Interim Dividend Declared	23 US¢	7.4 US¢
Amount of Dividend	US\$ 98,644	US\$ 342,304
Ex Dividend Date	27.3.84	19.4.83
Payable to Shareholders of record	263.84	18.4.83
Dividend Payment Date	8.5.84	17.5.83
Net Assets	US\$ 30,839,357	US\$ 35,480,445
Net Asset Value per US\$0.25 Share	US\$ 7.00 ad	US\$ 7.72

28th March 1984

For and on behalf of the Board
KLEINWORT, BENSON (GUERNSEY) LIMITED
As Administrators of the Fund
Westbourne, The Grange, St Peter Port, Guernsey, C.I.

TEMPUS

Hawker Siddeley set for acquisition trail

S. Pearson & Son

S Pearson & Son duly rewarded its growing City fan club yesterday with news of a much better than expected 29 per cent leap in pretax profits for last year. Despite the nine-week Financial Times dispute last summer which is estimated to have cost £6m, profits soared ahead to £77.4m.

The real action appears to have been at Westminster Press, where the two-year rationalization programme combined with a general upturn in advertising expenditure to produce a dramatic profits recovery. But Penguin, Royal Doulton and, to lesser extent Longman, Lazards and Fairway Engineering also produced an impressive about-turn, helping to lift the group clear of the profit plateau of the previous two years.

There has been an equally remarkable improvement in the balance sheet where net borrowings have fallen to £78m, or from 36 per cent of shareholders' funds a year ago to 22 per cent now.

The current year looks set for another big jump in profits to £90m or more. The Financial Times always does well in a bull market and the same factors should be helpful to Lazards.

While recovery in the Camco oil service business in the United States is probably still another year away, the Goldcrest film production company - currently undergoing a capital reconstruction which will reduce it to associate groups - should begin to make a sizeable contribution. Last year it made a modest profit after the start-up losses of former years and it has some high-potential film - notably Mr David Putnam's *Killing Fields* - due for release in 1984.

S Pearson's diverse collection of businesses have one common feature - their quality standing within their own industries. This has yet to be fully reflected in the company's share price, even after yesterday's 37p hike to 538p.

Northern Engineering

Northern Engineering's figures contain two fairly black spots. Extel Corporation the group's ambitious foray into the

Yankee electronics industry, nearly fell apart last year as the whole US telecommunications industry splintered under de-regulation. Extel's operating losses doubled to £9.5m and other North American losses pushed the total up to £11.8m. Meanwhile, on Northern's much-vaunted Indian super-thermal-power contract at Rihand, the group may face a hefty bill for contract completion delays.

A whole string of wrinkles also blemish the figures. Trading margins are down fractionally, like the new order intake (£763m). Extraordinary debts total £5m, reflecting wholesale rationalization moves. A 10 per cent dividend rise to 5.3p cannot be described as over-generous.

But yesterday the shares put on 8p to 93p, some 17p off the all-time high, as the market looked through transient trading problems to concentrate on massive structural changes taking place in the group. The drive, for example, to improve balance sheet ratios has pushed net cash balances up nearly £30m to £63m (29p a share), leading to an upswing in net investment income of £7m. A further 2,000 jobs will go this year but the group stands, it feels, on the brink of an indefinite productivity breakthrough. Stock turn is still rising, like the capital sales ratio.

The market is disposed to take on trust Northern's soothing comments on its 1983 blackspots, especially since the total order book is still worth 18 months' business. Extel should generate £3m profits in the US during this year's second half, and break even for the year, fears about the tricky Indian contract may prove groundless.

Perhaps analysts' hopes for 1984 of £50m pretax, and a target p/e of 6 on earnings of 15p will turn out right. Northern, however, is now keen to use its balance sheet muscle and hit the takeover trail, preferably for electronics companies and possibly by issuing paper. A New York listing might be one way to boost the current rating, but with 28 brokers attending yesterday's analysts' meeting, old-fashioned London buying may provide the solution.

British Land buys £4m shopping mall

By Our City Staff

British Land yesterday completed the £4.3m purchase of the Cowley Centre, a purpose built shopping complex in Oxford, and announced property sales in London and Northern Ireland.

The property group has bought the Cowley Centre from Oxford City Council. The 240,000 square feet comprises 71 shops, five stores, two banks and 6,125 square feet of offices. It has parking for up to 1,000 cars.

British Land has sold two properties in Belfast and a 10,000 year leasehold property of ground floor retail and office space in London for a total £2.1m which, added to other

recent sales brings the proceeds from disposal of surplus property to £14m.

The group has also exchanged contracts on its interest in Willowbank and Carrara Wharfs near London's Putney Bridge.

As part of British Land's attempt to rebuild its reputation of an imaginative and successful property group, it paid £5m jointly with Power Securities two months ago for what is believed to be the last remaining prime site in Dublin's financial and banking district. A £20m retail and office scheme is planned, on the site near St Stephens Green.

MONEY MARKETS

Period rates held steady throughout a day of low activity. Dealers said the easier state of nearby funds offset continuing worries about US money trends and the miners' dispute.

Business was concentrated at the short end of the market. One month certificates of deposit were bought at 8½ per cent, having been issued in some size at the outset.

Overnight money interbank hovered in the 8½ to 8¾ per cent region, but, in the final stages, dropped to about 6 per cent before climbing again to about 9 per cent.

Local authorities were quiet.

Bank backs buy-out at Capper

National Westminster Bank, which put in the receiver at the Capper Neill Group, is backing a management buy-out of the company's pipe services subsidiary.

Three directors have completed negotiations with the receiver, Cork Gully, for 75 per cent of Capper pipe services contracts, to provide a £2m turnover and save 150 jobs, despite the decision against grant aid by the Department of Industry.

The new company, Buildite, to trade as Capper Pipe Service, will operate throughout Britain.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	8½%
Barclays	8½%
BCCI	8½%
Citibank Savings	9½%
Consolidated Crds	8½%
Continental Trust	8½%
C. Hoare & Co	8½%
Lloyds Bank	9½%
Midland Bank	8½%
Nat Westminster	8½%
TSB	8½%
Williams & Glyn's	8½%

† Mortgage Base Rates.
* 7 day deposits on rates of under £10,000. 90%: £10,000 up to £50,000. 95%: £50,000 up to £100,000. 98%: over £100,000.

Border issues £15m debenture

By Christopher Dunn

The stockbrokers de Zoete & Bevan yesterday completed flotation of the first debenture to be issued after the 1984 Budget's liberalizing tax moves on corporate debt, by placing £15m of stock maturing in 2014

for the Border & Southern Stockholders Investment Trust. Terms of the new stock were worked out by reference to the 3 pm price yesterday of Treasury 1½ per cent 2004/08. On this basis, the coupon on the new

Border & Southern debenture is 1½ per cent, and the issue price is 98.19 per cent. The stock rates a 1.2 per cent premium on the comparable gilt-edged issue. Dealings start at 2 pm on April 19.

Under new Inland Revenue regulations announced in the Budget, debenture stock, but not convertibles, are free of capital gains tax, if held for a year and a day. The new tax moves bring corporate debt into line with gilt-edged stock issued by the Government and reflects moves to open up the market in funded corporate debt.

A de Zoete & Bevan spokesman said that there had been no difficulty in placing the stock.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The pound held steady throughout in continued light trading ahead of the holiday weekend, closing almost unchanged at 1.4205 (1.4210) against the dollar, while its wider international value ended at 79.8 (same).

Sterling tended to harden late in the day in step with a firming dollar, and managed small improvements over the Deutschmark 3.7550 (3.7500), Swiss franc 3.1150 (3.1100), and French franc 11.5525 (11.5350).

The dollar repeated its recent narrowly mixed pattern for much of the session before edging higher in the final hour on support from New York.

NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION Notice of Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the one hundred and forty-eighth annual general meeting of National Provident Institution will be held at the Painters Hall, 9 Little Trinity Lane, London EC4, on Tuesday 15 May 1984 at 12.15 pm for the transaction of the following ordinary business.

To receive and consider the accounts and the report of the directors for the year ended 31 December 1983.

To re-elect directors.

To re-appoint Deloitte Haskins & Sells as auditors, and to authorise the directors to determine their remuneration.

By order of the Board,
G. V. Bayley, General Manager and Actuary.

NPI

48, GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON EC3.

Bowthorpe Holdings PLC Audited results for the year ended 31 December 1983

	1983	1982	% change
TURNOVER	£87.2m	£72.8m	+19.8
PRE-TAX PROFITS	£15.2m	£12.4m	+22.8
EARNINGS PER SHARE*	18.4p	15.8p	+16.5
TOTAL DIVIDEND	4.682p	4.041p	+15.9

* before extraordinary deferred taxation.

Bowthorpe Holdings PLC, Gatwick Road Crawley West Sussex RH10 2RZ.

APPOINTMENTS

Sedgwick names managing director

Sedgwick UK: Mr W. R. White-Cooper has become managing director.

Carless, Capel and Leonard: Mr Jack Barton and Dr Eric Bosshard have joined the board.

Scottish Lion Insurance Company: Mr J. R. Charman, general manager and marine underwriter, together with Mr T. J. Newson, assistant general manager and non-marine underwriter, have been made directors.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland: Professor W. C. C. Morrison is the new president.

Estates Property Investments Company: Mr D. R. Poole has become managing director and Mr D. V. Udall has been appointed financial director. Both are existing members of the board.

Theodore Goddard & Co: Christine Lerry, Mr John Kelleher, Mr James Harman, Claire Meltzer and Mr Hamish Hunter will become partners on May 1.

Gray Mackenzie & Company: Mr E. S. Hunter has been appointed chief executive. Mr W. Blake Bearn and Mr J. J. L. Fox have been appointed directors. Mr J. J. L. Fox has resigned after serving as a director for more than 20 years.

Foreign & Colonial Management: Mr Oliver Dawson has become chairman. He succeeds Mr Derek Baer who will remain on the board.

The Second Alliance Trust: Mr Robert C. Smith has become chairman in place of Mr George E. Dunn who retires from the chair and as a director of the company.

Gerald Eve & Co: Mr Hilary M. Eve has retired from the company. Margaret E. Thomas has retired as an associate and Mr Reginald A. France retired as an associate on May 1. Mr Michael R. Sharp, Glasgow office, Mr Anthony N. Chase and Mr Simon W. B. Chalwin are appointed associates.

Independent Computer Engineering: Mr Brian Johnson has been appointed executive chairman.

Flectcare: Mr Bernard Lott has become managing director of the company which is the automotive care and maintenance division of the National Freight Consortium.

Omnes Faulkner: The following have joined the board: Mr William B. Close, as works director; Mr Kenneth Lohb, commercial director; Mr David J. Rooke, production director; and Mr David J. Worrall as personnel director.

Federated Housing: Mr M. K. Holloway has been made a non-executive director.

Solicitors' Law Stationery Society: Mr J. A. Holland has been appointed a director.

Mersey, Docks and Harbour: Mr James Fitzpatrick, managing director and chief executive, has been appointed chairman. He will be succeeded as managing director and chief executive by the present port services director, Mr Trevor Furlong. The appointments take effect from June 16 and are prompted by the retirement of Sir John Page after four years as chairman.

Engineering Polymers: Mr Huw Radley has been made managing director of the company.

Balterley Bathrooms: Mr R. R. Miles has become a director.

Tetra Pak British Isles: Mr Bertil Hagman has been appointed executive chairman and managing director. Mr Keith Paterson becomes deputy managing director; Mr Alistair Napier, marketing director; Mr Peter Steinthal, finance director; Mr Ole Andersson, production director; Mr Norman Stewart, technical director; Mr Hakan Nilsson, company secretary; Mr Charles Aiken, general manager, branch office, England and Wales.

Economic Commentary by Tim Congdon

Monetary history could repeat itself if miners keep echoing 1970s

If there is anything to be said in favour of Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, it is that he has made people think back to the early 1970s. They were not the most glorious years in British history. In economic policy, the period is mostly remembered for the collapse of Mr Edward Heath's dash for growth in 1974. The miners' strike destroyed an incomes policy which the Conservative Government had thought could control inflation.

History never repeats itself exactly. The economic situation now is in most respects very different from that at any stage in the early 1970s. But there are some parallels and they are not to be found only in industrial relations, but also in monetary policy. Some recent trends in credit and money growth are similar to those seen at the beginning of the Heath-Barber boom.

Much of the interest in a comparison between the two periods lies in the lesson it gives on how to conduct monetary policy. In 1972 and 1973, there was an active debate between two schools of economic thought. The first argued that the economy was not expanding too fast because unemployment remained rather high by the standards of previous cycles, while narrow money measures, notably M1, were increasing at moderate rates.

The second, which was led by Mr Peter Jay, then the Economics Editor of *The Times*, and Professor Alan Day of the London School of Economics, said that the boom was unsustainable. In their view, money supply growth was clearly excessive and would result in much higher inflation. They focused on broad money measures, particularly M3, to justify their pessimism.

We all know now which group was right. Inflation went above 25 per cent in 1975, while national output, after a 7 per cent jump in 1973, fell by 1.6 per cent in 1974 and a further 1.1 per cent in 1975. The broad-money followers proved more successful in predicting events than the narrow-money school. The disagreement between them may have seemed theological and arcane, but it proved to be of great importance in understanding the social and political crisis which Britain was about to experience.

The new relevance of the 1972-73 debate arises because narrow and broad money have started to grow at different rates. The provisional March money supply numbers illus-

trate the pattern. The narrow-money measures are rising moderately with the latest Treasury favourite, M0, behaving particularly well. But the growth of broad money and credit is accelerating.

The acceleration of broad money growth is less obvious with sterling M3 than with PSL2. As sterling M3 includes only bank deposits, its growth is regulated by the expansion of bank credit. But PSL2 includes both bank and building society deposits, and so it can grow quickly if mortgage lending is very buoyant.

Over the last 12 months, mortgage lending has steadily gathered momentum. In consequence, PSL2 growth has increased. In the year to March, PSL2 rose by 12 per cent, in the three months to March, at an annual rate of 15 1/2 per cent, and in March itself, at an annual rate of almost 20 per cent. The recent rates of change are far above the official target ranges for either broad or narrow money.

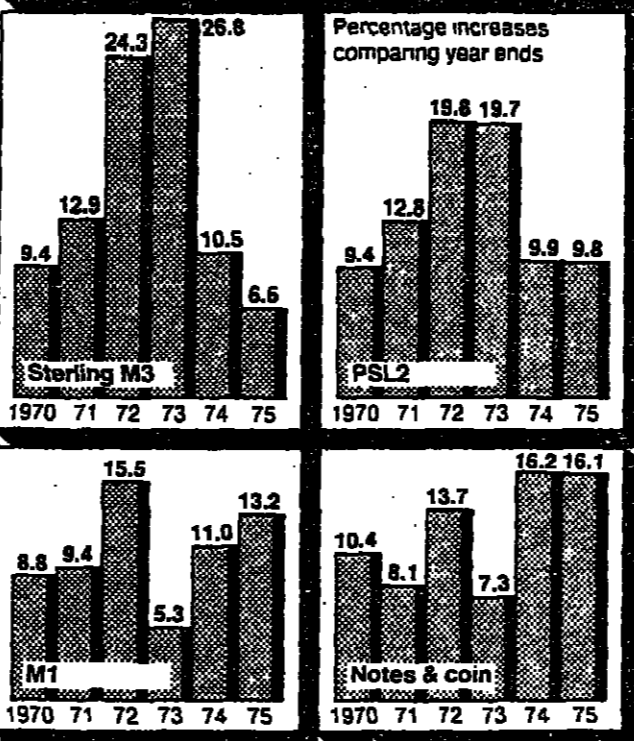
The interesting - and disturbing - point here is that the Heath-Barber boom began in very much the same way. The starting point is often thought to have been the 1972 Budget. In fact, it can be dated to the middle of 1971. Bank rate was cut from 7 to 6 per cent on April 1 and then to 5 per cent on September 2.

These interest rate reductions were soon followed by an explosion in building society lending. The quarterly figure for the societies' net advances, which had averaged £196m in 1969 and £272m in 1970, exceeded £450m in the second half of 1971 and peaked at about £600m in late 1972 and early 1973. The growth of PSL2 accelerated as well, reaching almost 20 per cent a year.

The upturn in mortgage credit created a very active housing market and was associated with strong consumer spending. The general economic improvement, accompanied by the relaxation of bank lending restrictions in the Competition and Credit Control reforms, stimulated companies' demand for credit. In 1972, M3 leapt by 27 per cent and in 1973 by 28 per cent.

It was numbers like these which caused Mr Jay and Professor Day to ring the alarm bells. They ignored the behaviour of the narrow money aggregates, which gave a much more complacent message. At the time, M1 was the only measure which people looked at closely. Its growth did accelerate

GROWTH RATES OF MAIN MONETARY AGGREGATES, 1970-75



from 9 1/2 per cent in 1971 to 15 1/2 per cent in 1972, but then slipped to only 5 1/2 per cent in 1973.

Equally unsatisfactory as a guide to the coming inflationary storm was the note and coin issue which constitutes most of M0. Its average yearly increase between 1971 and 1973 was under 10 per cent, far less than the increase in prices that was to be recorded in 1974 and 1975.

The reason for this failing is not hard to seek. M1 is dominated by current accounts, and both current accounts and the note and coin issue are used for transactions. People can make current accounts suit their needs by switching money out of deposit accounts, while the note issue can be adjusted in the

ing inflation rate. It does not anticipate events, such as the inflation rate in a year or two.

With unemployment at three million and still rising, it will be a long time before serious inflationary pressures return. To highlight the risks of excessive credit and money growth may therefore seem premature. An early interest rate rise would, indeed, be unnecessary masochism in present circumstances.

But the Heath-Barber boom demonstrates how easy it would be to misread the monetary data and postpone measures until they are overdue. Despite recent economic activity, inflation may stay down and be associated with low growth of narrow money, including the M0 aggregate which now receives so much attention in the Treasury (if nowhere else). Meanwhile, credit and broad money might be expanding at rates incompatible with long-term inflation control.

Could there be another monetary debate in 1985 and 1986 comparable to that in 1972 and 1973? It seems quite likely. If Mr Scargill is still on the rampage, the industrial and financial scenery will be remarkably similar to that of a decade ago.

The author is economics partner at stockbrokers L. Messel & Co.

Wickins seeks £17m for US expansion

By William Kay, City Editor

The expected rights issue from Mr David Wickins' British Car Auctions materialised yesterday, and it was even bigger than the market had been led to believe.

The group, which runs car auctions in this country and the US, is raising £17.2m through an issue of four new shares for every 13 held, at 98p compared with a market price of 115p, down 2p of the news of the deal.

It will be a test of the City's faith in Mr Wickins, as the scheme will add 30 per cent to the issued share capital. The new shares will not rank for the interim dividend, already announced, to be paid on July 31.

In an effort to steady any faint hearts, Mr Wickins has said that he will not issue any more shares, other than as part of commitments to meet options. The last rights issue was in March 1983.

He is also forecasting that British Car Auctions will make a profit before tax and extraordinary items, of not less than £8m for the year to July, compared with £6m last year. This is £1m less than some of

the bulls had been hoping for but again, the market had been prepared for the forecast to be toned down.

The fresh capital is being raised in the wake of rapid expansion in the US. National Bank of Detroit will be repaid £12.6m out of the proceeds. The other £4.6m will be used to cut British bank borrowings.

The directors expect to pay a final dividend of "not less than" 1.8p net for the current year, payable next January. This would be a 10.5 per cent increase on the previous year.

Mr Wickins also reports that the pace of expansion in the US is set to slow. Talks are taking place with a view to buying an auction in Pennsylvania, and there may be "one or two" more such deals. But growth thereafter will be mainly internal. "There is considerable potential to expand the existing auctions," said Mr Wickins.

For the next year, the group faces further payments as part of deferred instalments on purchases made in the US over the past 18 months. After that, the group's cash flow will enable it to plan further moves.

Mitchell Cotts settles for £2.6m compensation

Mitchell Cotts, the overseas trader with engineering and transport interests, has at least settled compensation terms with the Ethiopian Government after the nationalization of its cotton plantation company in 1975.

Protracted negotiations in Addis Ababa over the Tenaho Plantation Share Co have achieved a compromise which

will pay Mitchell Cotts £2.6m, against a book value of £2.3m.

Ten per cent will be paid immediately with the rest in 14 six-monthly instalments, plus interest from October.

The Ethiopian Government has also agreed to the remittance of outstanding dividends due to Mitchell Cotts before nationalization. All payments will be in sterling in London.

WALL STREET

Charter denial by Allianz

A report that the West German Allianz group was interested in acquiring insurance business from the financially-beset Charter company of Florida, brought a strong denial yesterday.

A spokesman in Munich refused a *Wall Street Journal* report that Charter had approached Allianz with a sale offer for three life insurance units.

The paper had quoted industry sources as saying that

Charter's chairman, Mr Raymond Mason, had approached Allianz and other companies.

Allianz has already signed a letter of intent to buy Amstar insurance business, subject to a favourable review of operations.

But an Allianz spokesman said that evaluation, originally expected to take two months, had proved more difficult than expected and a firm decision would not now be taken until May.

Websters seeks £3m for software work

By Jonathan Clare

Websters Group, the former Websters Publications book distribution business, is asking shareholders for £3.13m net to help develop book and computer software markets.

The home computer software division, started in 1983, made a first-time contribution of £767,000 to group results. This and better profits from book distribution helped increase group profits from £1.5m more than £2m. The improvement would have been even greater but for a substantial loss of £625,000, against £2,000, from the visual communications business which is developing a video learning system known as Felix.

The net cash from the one-for-three rights issue at 84p per share will initially be used to reduce borrowings and improve gearing. No profits forecast has been made for the current year but the company has promised

that the total dividend will be at least maintained at last year's 3.1p on the enlarged capital. The 1983 dividend of 3.1p compares with 2.7p for 1982.

The company also said the full-year results depend on second-half trading and that the seasonal bias was becoming stronger as the group developed further.

Most profits still come from book distribution, where Websters has a dominant hold on about a quarter of the paperback distribution market. Profits were up from £1.4m to £1.8m.

The bookshops - they include Bounty Books, a bargain book chain, and Books for Students - increased profits from £262,000 to £296,000. Profits from printing and publications also improved, from £155,000 to £228,000.

The shares rose 5p to 112p.

Kalamazoo slips into the red

By Philip Robinson

Kalamazoo, the business system company 51.5 per cent owned by the Kalamazoo Workers' Alliance, faces what it calls "a stringent review of costs" to keep itself on the road back to profits.

The company yesterday announced a half-year loss of £178,000 compared with a £1.3m profit for the same period last year. This disguises a turnaround from loss to profit between the first and second quarters, but will not be enough to make the year as a whole "comparable" with 1983's £3.6m profit.

Meanwhile shareholders, including the workers' alliance, are having to suffer a cut in the interim dividend from 0.83p a share to 0.5p.

The company added that it is "currently engaged in a restructuring of the business".

Jardine Fleming in £22m venture plan

By Philip Robinson

Jardine Fleming yesterday announced it was raising £22m, mainly from UK financial institutions for its first Japanese venture capital fund.

This is the second Japanese-based fund to emerge from the Jardine Fleming stable in as many weeks, and both are closely linked with Associates of Normura Securities, the giant Japanese stockbroking house.

The present fund, called JF Japan Venture I, will take advice on 80 per cent of its investment portfolio from Nomura associate group, Japan Associated Finance Co. (JAFCO).

The latest fund is to raise Yen 7,000m through a minimum subscription of five units valued at Yen 100m (£312,000). The fund will have a life initial of 10 years and will invest in unquoted companies with developed products or services in a strong market position.

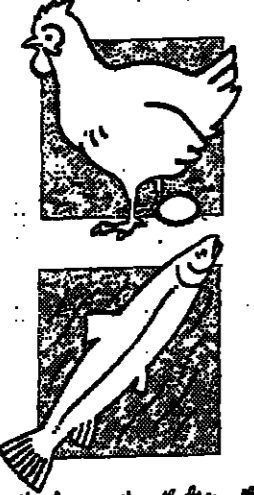
Potential investment would be businesses which are likely to go public through either a stock market listing or an over-the-counter quotation in five to seven years.

It is when the investment goes public that original investors benefit. The proceeds of the fund's shareholdings in the company is liquidated and divided between unit holders.

Analysis of its first venture capital partnership, which is now fully invested, shows an estimated return of 32 per cent by the end of last December.

The manager of JF Japan Venture I will receive a 3 per cent annual management fee and will be entitled to performance fees of 20 per cent of the net income and capital gains realized by the Trust. However only half the performance will be distributed before unit holders have received capital equal to their initial investment.

Our agricultural interests are yielding more every year



Booker McConnell has expanded its interests in agriculture, retail food distribution and health products. The emphasis is on investing in those areas of our greatest expertise and profitability. The disinvestments in engineering and spirits, liqueurs and wines have freed substantial resources for the development of our main activities.

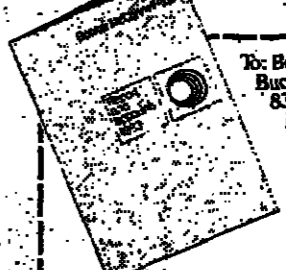
The Year at a Glance

The group's turnover for the first time was more than one billion pounds; pre-tax profit was 30% higher at £22.1m; earnings per share were 12.1p compared with 10.0p in 1982; and the dividend was 14.7% higher at 4.3p.

In April 1983, we purchased a further 35% of Ibec, the US company controlling our agricultural interests. Largely as a result of this, profit from agriculture increased from £3.4m to £6.4m.

In 1983 the sale of Fletcher Sutcliffe Wild and SPP Group released £17.6m. So far in 1984, we have purchased Bishop's Group for £12.8m to extend our successful retail food business, and Radiance in the USA for \$10m to complement our health products interests there. Our interests in the liquor industry have been sold for £42.8m.

If you would like more information about Booker McConnell we will be pleased to send you a copy of our Annual Report together with the brochure 'Food for the Future' which describes our investment in world agriculture. Just fill in the coupon.



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Rangers must keep their chickens on ice for another summer

New York's annual binge of beer and loathing in the Garden

New York
It is that time of year in New York when the "hockey fans" sneak into Madison Square Gardens with plastic chickens and fishheads secreted up their shirts. When marijuana smoke wafts from the Garden stairwells as thick as Los Angeles smog. When businessmen sneak out of dinners at the Waldorf Astoria to sit in their BMWs, tune in the radio and thump the steering wheel in a mime of excitement. It is the time, in other words, when the Rangers meet the Islanders in the National Hockey League playoffs.

The enmity between the two New York clubs is one of the world's outstanding sporting rivalries. The esteem in which the average Stretford Emmer holds Manchester City is nothing compared to the hatred that Ranger fans harbour for the Isles. A volley of rotting fish and chickens greets their enemies at the Garden.

New York loves a winner, but for the hard-nosed hockey lovers in Manhattan the wrong team keeps winning. The Isles, 12 years old and based on Long Island 35 miles from Times Square, have won the NHL championship, the Stanley Cup, for the last four seasons. Starved of Stanley cup success since 1940, Ranger fans loathe their rivals with a vengeance.

Fishheads dumped

The Rangers, three times Stanley Cup winners, have been Manhattan's team for 58 years, yet for the past three seasons running the Islanders have invaded their Madison Square Garden home in the playoffs and taken them to the cleaners.

This year was not much different. Last week at the Nassau Coliseum on Long Island, the Islanders finally overpowered fearsome Ranger resistance in overtime to win the first game of the series 3-2. The city of New York went into familiar mourning. The plastic chickens were wrapped up for another year. The fishheads went out with the trash.

"This is just as serious as Lebanon or Russia," one Ranger fan said. "And I am not joking."

But he and 17,000 others at the Garden did have one fleeting moment of glory last week that will console them through the long, hot, hockey-less summer. At one game all in the series after the two games on Long Island, the Isles came to the city for their first taste of mass Ranger hostility. Imagine the Hampden roar concentrated into the dome of St Paul's. That is the beer-filled Rangers' war cry when the Isles are being beaten. The Rangers romped to a 7-2 victory.

"We're fanatics," a blue seater said joyfully, in the break between the first and second periods. In the Garden, a blue seater differs from a red seater as a North Banker differs from an east stand season ticket holder at Highbury. The red seats snugly host corporate pin stripes, fetch \$500 on the black market and give an inaccurate view of the ice, including the players' faces distorted in agony as they are crushed against the perspex barrier.

The blue seats, coated in a glutinous mixture of beer and popcorn, form a ring high up on the arena dome and house the noisiest, rudest, most manic and probably most knowledgeable fans in American sport.

"They are the worst when it comes to rudeness," said the second highest scorer in NHL history, Phil Esposito, a former Ranger player.

"I see no reason for it, except that by the time the game is over most of them are loaded. But they are still incredible fans. If the Rangers win the cup, the city would go absolutely crazy."

Gauntlets thrown

That is one reason why, even in their hour of triumph, the Islanders house a secret frustration. Despite their achievements on the ice, New York city is yawningly indifferent to their success.

It is not the fault of the players, whose cast of characters included a goaltender, Billy Smith, who is so obsessive about the play-offs that he refused to shake hands with opponents and moved into a hotel for two months to avoid the distraction of his wife.

Demis Potvin, a hunk of granite in defence, Bob Myster, blond and battle-scarred, and Clark Gillies, a 6ft 3in 200lb forward, all throw down the gloves occasionally - a curious ritual in hockey, sanctioned by the league, in which players stop skating and enjoy a punchup. "With clubs in their hands and razors on their feet, it is better to fight cleanly and get it over with," Esposito explained.

That is not morality New Yorkers appreciate. Fast, furious and frequently explosive, the Ranger Islander rivalry is a manifestation on the ice of Manhattan's hectic way of life.

Sue Mott

CRICKET: LANCASHIRE ELEVATION, MIDDLESEX PROMOTION

Abrahams chosen to captain Lancashire

John Abrahams took over as captain of Lancashire yesterday, replacing Clive Lloyd, who will be leading the West Indies during their tour of England this season.

The South African-born batsman has been regarded for some time as Lloyd's natural successor. Jack Bond, the Lancashire manager said yesterday, "John did a really good job last year when he stood in for Clive. When we knew definitely that Clive would be unavailable because of the West Indies tour it was a natural decision to make John captain."

Abrahams, the son of a former Lancashire league professional, took ten years to earn his county cap and once was on the point of leaving. Jack Simmons, the veteran all-rounder, has been made vice-captain.

Lamb, a former Middlesex and Northamptonshire fast bowler, said "It is not a bad carrot to dangle, we received £125,000 from membership revenue last year and that was more than the share from the Test and County Cricket Board."

"It is our biggest source of income and unfortunately some countries have treated members as second class citizens. They should be treated like the important people they are because their money is vital to the survival of any county."

Mike Gatting, captain of the Benson and Hedges cup holders and county championship runners-up, is left with the pleasant problem of

Dangling a carrot to boost finances and membership

Middlesex are offering free membership and a £500 holiday in Tenerife in a recruiting drive designed to swell their long term finances and membership. The scheme has been introduced by Tim Lamb, the new secretary who is alarmed at the drop in membership from 9,000 to 7,500 over the past three years.

Any member who introduces new business which trebles the £32.50 yearly subscription will receive a total refund or discount, a 50 per cent cut for doubling the subscription and a 20 per cent cut for tripling it. The lucky member who brings in the most cash will get the free holiday.

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choosing from three of his four last bowlers during May because Wayne Daniel missed selection on this summer's West Indies tour.

Gatting said "We all thought that Wayne had a very good chance of making the West Indies side. It is nice for me as captain but not so nice for the bowler who is left out. But if Norman Cowans is wanted by England for the Tests, then the position will resolve itself."

Gatting is hoping for a dry summer so that his John Embury and Phil Edmunds, his world-class spinners, can go to work. He added "It was a case of us losing the title to Essex last year rather than them winning it, but of course, they had to make sure that they did not slip up along the way."

"We were washed out at Lords during May and if we get a dry summer, we could win it this time. Embury and Edmunds are a great force while Essex only really have David Acfield in the spin department."

"I have seen Nottinghamshire quoted at 33-1 for the championship by one bookmaker and I just can't believe for the bowler who is left out. But if Norman Cowans is wanted by England for the Tests, then the position will resolve itself."

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ATHLETICS

Question of distance for Miss Decker

Los Angeles (AFP) - Mary Decker, aged 25, who won two gold medals at the World Championships in Helsinki last year, has decided to make up her mind about running both distances at the Olympic Games - the 1,500 metres and 3,000 metres.

She will begin her preparation with a 3,000 metres run here on May 13, just a month before the United States Olympic trials - on the University of California at Los Angeles' new track at Drake Stadium.

Before that she will run a 5,000 metres race at Eugene, Oregon, which she considers as a warm-up after a break of several months because of a torn muscle in her right calf.

Miss Decker, who had to come through years of adversity caused by injuries to triumph over the Soviet Union athletes in both the 1,500 metres and 3,000 metres at Helsinki, treated the latest injury cautiously and started training again only in February. Her last race was a mile, which she won, in London last September.

"I am awfully cautious in this passing through Los Angeles. I avoid risks she missed the United States indoor circuit. Her main rival should be Zola Budd, should she be allowed to compete too for Britain in the Olympic Games."

"Now, I feel great, and I've been in constant progress for the last two months," she said. "My main concern now is not to get injured at a crucial time of my preparation."

She will run in a 1,500 metres event in Eugene on June 4, just nine days before the trials, but had still not made up her mind about doubling up. "At first, I have to make the team in the two events if I want to double," she said.

She will base her decision on how she performs at the trials. "If I feel better for the 1,500 metres, I'll have the same schedule as the Olympics. If I feel confident enough to double, I'll do it. If not, I'll have to depend on my training. If I can do more speed."

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CYCLING

New boost for city racing

By John Wilcockson

City centre racing caught the nation's attention when it was presented for the first time on Channel 4 television last August. Yesterday the sport was given a further boost with the announcement of five similar races. Four of them will constitute a Winton series, grand prix series to be held in the Anglia Television area next month. The other is a race to be sponsored by Kellogg's in Dublin during August.

A field of 60 riders from Britain, Ireland, Belgium, France and The Netherlands, is to contest the Anglia series, which is being sponsored by Winton, an all-colour monthly cycling magazine that is to be launched in early May. The races will take place in Milton Keynes (at 7.00pm, May 17), and Norwich (7.30pm, May 19). They are to be of one-hour duration on circuits of between a half and three-quarters of a mile.



Roche going home

The Dublin race takes place on August 14, with the second participation of the two Irish cycling stars, Sean Kelly and Stephen Roche, who will be competing for the first time in a professional race in their own country.

IN BRIEF

The wind of no change

Chris Lloyd won the Hilton Head Island women's tennis tournament in South Carolina for the seventh time on Monday (Reuter report). The top seed beat the unseeded West German, Claudia Kohde, 6-2, 6-3 in a final postponed on Sunday because of heavy rain. An unpredictable, swirling wind made playing difficult.

Pam Shriver, the world No 3, has entered for the Edgemoor Cup, the pre-Wimbledon international grass court tournament.

The unseeded Catherine Tanvier, of France, overcame nervousness to defeat the ninth-seeded Virginia Ruzici of Romania yesterday in the first round of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) championships, at Amelia Island, Florida.

Miss Tanvier, who suffers from a nervous complaint, that makes breathing difficult, won the first set on a tie-break and did the same in the third to win, 7-6, 1-6, 7-6.

SWIMMING: Wigan Wasps, Britain's most successful swimming club, are to be sponsored by a local bakery firm for the next four years (Athlete Still writes). Their coach, Keith Bewley said the deal with Greenhalgh's, a firm based in Bolton, with outlets in the Wigan area, is worth £20,000.

BOWLS: George Souza (Hongkong) and David Bryant, respectively winner and runner-up last year, head the field for the Gateway Masters tournament at Worthing from June 1 to 3 (Gordon Allan writes). The other competitors are John Bell (England), Willie Wood (Scotland), Peter Belliss (New Zealand), Darby Ross (Australia), Francisco Souza (United States) and Dan Milligan (Canada).

Zaheer blamed for 'debacle'

Karachi (Reuters) - Pakistan's displays in the recent inaugural Asian Cup were described as a debacle in an editorial in the influential newspaper Dawn yesterday.

It said that indifferent and irresponsible batting, erratic and expensive bowling, untidy fielding "combined with lack of inspiring leadership, paved the way for the debacle".

"It is not so much the defeat as the failure of our cricketers to make a serious effort that is reprehensible. Pakistan lost to both Sri Lanka and India in the three-nation tournament staged in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates."

Bob Taylor, Derek Randall and David Gower yesterday received special awards of £450 each from Corahill, the sponsors of England's tests, for their performances on the recent tour of New Zealand and Pakistan. It was also announced that England's players will receive no increase in their £1,300 Test fee this season. However, Corahill's contribution to the TCCB will rise by £25,000, to £625,000.

COUNTY PROSPECTS

Middlesex hold most of the trump cards

By Richard Streeton

When Middlesex are at full strength they remain, on paper, the team least likely to be beaten in any of the four competitions. Test calls and injuries caused them to falter in the home stretch last season but there is no doubt that they will be contenders again for the championship and prominent performers in the one-day events.

All the necessary trumps are held, particularly in the attack. For the improving Cowans, Williams and Hughes, the best days still lie ahead and together with Daniel, if he misses the West Indies tour, they provide rare muzzle velocity for a county team. Edmonds and Embury have no rivals as the best spinning combination in the country.

Gatting's emergence as a significant factor for the county, who also found a capable vice-captain in Embury. Gatting and Roland Butcher, until he was injured, scored their runs with an aggression and panache that invariably kept their side on the initiative.

Butcher is confident there is no legacy from the fearful blow on the head he suffered in mid-July and he

made many runs on a winter club tour to India. Barlow, who has a benefit this year, not only returned to his best form in 1983 but also filled Brearley's place as an opener. With Barlow and Slack, followed by Bradley's mid-order batsmen should not lack a foundation.

Past and present Oxford University Blues feature again in the Middlesex reserves. Ellis is available regularly and Miller, the left-hander, who did so well at the end of last summer, and Carr, an off-spinner, will play after tea. Merry has left but Graham Rose, a 6ft 4in medium-fast bowler from Tottenham, and Jamie Sykes, an off-spinner from Shoreditch, are among promising youngsters signed.

More cricket, page 21

More cricket, page 21



Mary Decker: confident and determined

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La crème de la crème

Secretary/PA To Managing Director

Macdonald & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. have a vacancy for a Secretary/PA to work for their Managing Director.

First-class secretarial skills are required, plus previous experience at Director level. Applicants should be well organized and able to work on their own initiative, coping well when he is out of the office on business.

The ability to communicate effectively at all levels together with a pleasant telephone manner are essential.

Salary fully in keeping with this important job. Working in a modern office environment, you will be offered 5 weeks holiday and pension scheme.

Interested? Contact Janine Schneider, Personnel Officer on 01-377 4678 for an application form at:-

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If you are an experienced, self-motivated secretary County Bank would like to hear from you.

We are looking for intelligent, enthusiastic people to work in our Corporate Advisory Division.

The work is demanding and successful applicants will have sound secretarial skills (100 wpm shorthand/60 wpm typing) including audio and word processing experience, as well as a good educational background.

In return for hard work and commitment we offer an excellent salary and benefits package. Please apply in writing enclosing full details of all qualifications and experience to date, to:-

Mrs K Hoggard,
Personnel Officer,
County Bank Limited, 11 Old Broad Street,
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BANK

A National Westminster Bank Group

Multinational Company situated near the Franco-Swiss border seeks a bilingual secretary for its managing director and personnel director

English mother tongue, fluent French (spoken and written), shorthand/typing, ability to organise and use initiative.

This position offers a good salary and excellent opportunities for the successful candidate aged 23 years or over and with at least three years experience.

Please send full details of curriculum vitae to Mr D. Unvois, ITT Composants et Instruments, Avenue du Marechal de Lattre de Tassigny, BP 359, 39105 Dole, France.

ITT

SENIOR SECRETARY

Working for two Directors who are responsible for advising EMI Group companies, UK and overseas, on organisation of manufacturing and distribution resources. The duties are varied and interesting, giving plenty of scope for the exercise of initiative and responsibility.

The ideal candidate (28-45) must have excellent secretarial skills - an ability to handle figures, previous working experience in a busy commercial environment, and a pleasant personality.

In return, we are offering a good salary, range £7,500-£8,000, with review in July. To apply, please write, with full details, to:

Barbara K. Rotterova,
Senior Personnel Officer,
EMI Music Limited,
20 Manchester Square,
London, W1A 1ES.



**ARE YOU A
PEOPLE PERSON?**

International company seeks a new team member for their hectic Human Resources department. We would like someone who is bright, energetic and enthusiastic, able to communicate at all levels and who will show initiative. A good admin/secretarial background, preferably with some P.A. experience, is required. This is a long-term temporary position which could become permanent.

For details and application form, please phone:

Ellen Johnston on
01-928 1444 ext 27.

AD AGENCY COVENT GARDEN

Two vacancies exist for bright, intelligent shorthand secretaries, one as PA to Client Services Director and one for hard-working Account Director and team. Both positions require excellent secretarial skills, ability to work under pressure and top client contact experience. Good remuneration package.

Please write, with CV to the Personnel Department, BDG, 8 Henrietta St, London, WC2.

(No Agencies please).

Secretary/PA Knightsbridge c. £8,500

A very successful international executive recruitment organisation is seeking a high-calibre secretary/PA to work for one of its London-based directors. First-class typing, shorthand and administrative skills are required, including good organisational abilities. Candidates should be aged 25-35, have an attractive personality, and be able to deal with clients, etc in a friendly and efficient manner. Education to 'A' level an advantage. Starting salary will be around £8,500, plus £5.00 weekly lunch vouchers, 23 days holidays and other benefits.

Please telephone 01-235 6060 in the first instance and ask for Monique Jones.

Closing date: 4th May 1984.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- 8.00 Cestaf AM, News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins.
- 8.30 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Selma Scott. News from Fern Britton at 8.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; sport at 8.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; television preview at 8.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 9.10 and 8.15; Mike Smith with the new Top Twenty between 7.55 and 8.00; horoscopes at 8.30.
- 9.00 Battle of the Planets. Animated science fiction series. 5.00 Look Back With Noakes. John Noakes and his dog, Step, tour north west England by canal (r) 9.50 The All New Popeye Show (r). 10.00 Why Don't You...? Ideas from Cardiff for bored youngsters. 10.20 Now the Engine (r). 10.30 Play School, presented by Stuart McGugan.
- 10.55 Gharbar. Magazine programme for Asian women. Among the items is Taj Hassan talking to Aasha Bawa and Tulsi Thakral, a widow and widower, about bereavement. 11.20 Cestaf. 12.20 Seven Days That Changed The World. Tom Fleming with another religious story for Holy Week.
- 12.30 News Afternoon with Philip Hayton and Frances Coverdale. The weather prospects come from Ian Macaskill. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial report follow by news headlines with subtitles. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Among the guests are snooker commentator Ted Low and cook Michael Smith; and the Flying Pickets. 1.45 Gran (r). 1.50 Stop-Gol (r).
- 2.00 Cartoon: Tom and Jerry. 2.05 Film: Frankie and Johnny starring Elvis Presley as a rooster-entertainer who should have played gamblers' anonymous. Directed by Frederick de Cordova. 3.30 Daffy Duck's Easter Special.
- 3.55 Play School, presented by Iain Lauchlan. 4.20 The Perils of Penelope Pitcairn (r). 4.40 Rentaghost (r). 5.05 John Craven's Newsround. 5.10 Break Point. Part three of the drama serial about junior tennis players (r).
- 5.40 Sixty Minutes includes news at 5.40 from Moira Stuart; weather at 5.54; regional magazines at 5.55; and news headlines at 6.38.
- 6.40 Young Musician of the Year 1984. Humphrey Burton introduces the semi-finalists in the brass section.
- 7.15 Film: The Sheriff of Fractured Jaw (1950) starring Kenneth More and Jayne Mansfield. Light-hearted western with More playing a timid English gunsmith who becomes the most feared man in Tombstone. Directed by Raoul Walsh.
- 9.00 News with John Humphrys.
- 9.25 Q.E.D. - The Great for Mastermind champion, Alex McCowen, is taken on an exploration of his brain (see Choice).
- 9.55 Spotlight introduced by Harry Carpenter. Bough and snooker on offer tonight with the George Wimpey ASA semi-finals from Preston and a preview of the World Snooker championship with a look at the relatively unknown competitors who have to pre-qualify for the big event.
- 11.10 Remington Steele investigates the death of a Japanese in a motoring accident. His brother believes that it was murder, a conclusion that is reached by the redoubtable duo of private detectives.
- 12.00 Seven Days That Changed The World. A repeat of the programme shown at 12.20.
- 12.10 News headlines and weather.

TV-am

- 6.25 Good Morning Britain, presented by John Stapleton and Nick Owen. News from Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 8.55; sport at 8.55; the day's anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; a guest in the Spotlight at 7.20; cartoon at 7.25; Eric Morecambe at 7.40; part one of the video of the Michael Jackson story at 8.10; Eric Morecambe's magic moments at 8.15; Eve Polard's gossip column at 8.35; and 9.00 Roland Goes East.

ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 Thames news headlines followed by Sesame Street. 10.15 Film: Laurel and Hardy in 'We Faw Down' (1928) in which they play a card school unbeknown to their wives. Directed by Leo McCarey. 10.50 Northeast America. Author James Michener traces the influence of the millions of immigrants to the northeastern part of the United States. 11.40 Sport Billy. Cartoon adventures of the world's greatest athlete (r).
- 12.00 Atarah's Music. Atarah Ben-Ovrim gets a tune from a flute. 12.10 Soundbite Like a Story. Mark Wymmer with the tale of The Cowherd and the Alpheim (r). 12.30 The Sullivan's.
- 1.00 News. 1.20 Thames news with Robin Houston. 1.30 A Plus Holy Week. The second of three programmes about the Church and politics. In the discussion are John Selwyn Gummer MP, Frank Field MP, and Dr Digby Anderson. 1.40 The Social Affairs Unit. 2.00 Take the High Road. The mysterious new tenant arrives at the Dover House.
- 2.30 A Country Practice. Drama in the Australian outback. 3.30 Sons and Daughters. Patricia makes a desperate bid to keep John under her control. Anonymous. Directed by Frederick de Cordova. 3.30 Daffy Duck's Easter Special.
- 3.55 Play School, presented by Iain Lauchlan. 4.20 The Perils of Penelope Pitcairn (r). 4.40 Rentaghost (r). 5.05 John Craven's Newsround. 5.10 Break Point. Part three of the drama serial about junior tennis players (r).
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Alec McCowen: Mr Palfrey of Westminster (TV, 9.00 pm)

● The Michael Battany affair has given Mr Palfrey of Westminster (TV, 9.00pm) a dimension of topicality that nobody could have dreamed of when the transmission date was fixed. Its background is a sudden reorganization in the Security Service because something has gone terribly wrong. Mr Palfrey, a master of the art of counter-espionage, who has just netted a salmon on a fishing holiday, is summoned to Westminster to get a suspected traitor. Obviously he is promoted, but all the signs point in a different direction. He returns to only two-thirds of a secretary, a depressing office dominated by ghastly painting, and a no less dominating new security co-ordinator whom he rightly categorizes as "another iron Lady." This new, four-part thriller has a vein of sharp humour running through it.

BBC 2

- 6.05 Open University: Gibbon: The Ruins of Rome. 6.30 Religion: The Reaching Silence. 6.55 Cynical. Crystals and Co-ordination. 7.20 Contrast in Musical Language. 7.45 Microfilms. Ends at 8.10.
- 9.00 Cestaf.
- 4.05 Film: The Great American Broadcast (1941) starring Alice Faye, Jack Oakie and John Payne. A musical drama about three performers trying to make a success during the early days of sound broadcasting. Directed by Archie Mayo.
- 5.35 News summary with subtitles.
- 5.40 Film: A Man Alone (1955) starring Ray Milland and Mary Murphy. Gunfighter Wesley Steele discovers the wreckage and the dead bodies from a stage-coach hold-up and accidentally kills a law officer. While on the run he finds out who is responsible for the robbery and killings. Competent supporting cast includes Lee Van Cleef and Raymond Burr. Directed by Ray Milland.
- 7.15 Swallows and Amazons. Continued Part two of The Big Six. Police constable Tedder's suspicions mount as to the guilt of the Death and Glory boys when he discovers that they seem to have come into money. But are they really responsible for the boat break-in? Only Dick, Dot and Tom seem to think that they are innocent.
- 7.40 Karen Silkwood Deceased. Philip Tibbenthorn re-tells the story that he investigated for Panorama about the young woman who died in mysterious circumstances as she tried to draw attention to hazards at the plutonium plant where she worked.
- 8.30 Top Gear Investigates the pros and cons of driving on the Continent.
- 9.00 On Stage introduced by Glyn Worsnip. Lionel Blair, Joan Brown, Leslie Phillips, Doris Hare and John Junkin recall some of the funny things that happened to them on the way to theatre and on stage.
- 9.30 Play: A Woman Calling, by Anne Devlin. A psychological thriller about Laura who has spent three years in a Belfast hospital, dependent on drugs and unable to sleep with the lights on. She returns to a scene of her terror and turns to a psychologist to help her forget. Starring Tony Doyle and Paula Hamilton.
- 10.20 Treasures from Korea. A Chronicle Special that previews the exhibition opening at the British Museum in May.
- 11.00 Newsnight.
- 11.45 Photo Assignment. Terence Donovan with a nude assignment to the Lancashire Pennines (r).
- 12.10 Open University: The Poison Process. 12.30 The Nigerian Civil War. 1.00 Sexual Identity. Ends at 1.30.

CHANNEL 4

- 2.30 Racing from Newmarket. Bruce Scott introduces five coverage of four races - the April Maiden Stakes (3.30); the Ladbrokes European Free Handicap (3.10); the Earl of Sefton Stakes (3.40); and the Abernethy Stakes (4.10).
- 4.30 Cartoon Carnival presented by Ray Cloun.
- 5.00 Countdown. Yesterday's winner of the anagrams and mental arithmetic competition is challenged by Alison Heworth, a Liverpool student living in Oxford.
- 5.30 Enthusiasts. The final programme of the series presented by Martin Burrows that looks at people who spend all their time and energy in one particular direction features Linda Wright - Agate, Slip and Mochoware - who became interested in pottery ever since she saw Zimbabwean women making and firing red earthenware pots.
- 6.00 Passage to Britain. Part one: A Nation of Immigrants? A new 12-part series looking at the history of immigration in this country. This opening programme examines the background and history and in particular the impact of 1914 under which all citizens of the Colonies had a right to come and live in the United Kingdom. Among the contributors to tonight's programme are Ennch Powell, Paul Bosteng and George Mikes. The narrator is Miriam Margolyes.
- 6.30 The Moustache. Herman becomes jealous when his son, Eddie, has a crush on Zombi, the host of a children's horror programme.
- 7.00 Channel Four News.
- 7.50 Comment. The political side this week is taken by Jeremy Hanley, Conservative MP for Richmond and Barnes.
- 8.00 Brookside. Liz, Alan's new companion, is a source of interest to neighbours in the Close.
- 8.30 Diverse Reports. Weekly current affairs programme which takes a look at the news from an alternative angle. Among today's items is a report on the Baby Rusk business.
- 9.00 Winners. A documentary that follows the judging process through to the prizegiving of the What a Picture photography competition held last night.
- 10.00 Film: 1-1-3 (1979) starring Adelheid Arndt, Dominik Graf and Christoph Quest. A comedy about an actress who becomes pregnant and undecided about two men - one the father, the other one who is desperately protective of the unborn child. Directed by Heidi Genes.
- 11.35 Voices. Roy Porter chairs a discussion between Kurt Hubner, Bill Newton-Smith and Robert Young on the subject Scientific Reason: Truth or Illusion?
- 12.35 Ian Breakwell's Continuous Diary.
- 12.40 Closedown.

CHOICE

Palfrey himself has marginally more charm than Guinness's George Smiley, and Alec McCowen gives him to perfection.

● Just as BBC Television's Mastermind re-routed the career of its taxi-driver winner Frank Hough, so it now promises to open up a new stretch of track for a former train driver Chris Hughes, last year's champion. THE QUEST FOR MASTERMIND'S BRAIN (BBC 1, 9.25pm) puts Mr Hughes back in the sinister leather chair, reunites him with Magnus Magnusson, and finds him uncharacteristically saying "pass" to such questions as "what does your brain look like, sliced down the middle?" The rest of this jolly edition of QED finds the substantial Mr Hughes, still sporting the Heavy Freight GWR emblem on

the familiar blue pullover, launched into a world of X-ray machines, ultrasound gadgetry (I'm happy to say you definitely aren't pregnant", says the man who is running something over his tummy), and - ultimately - a nuclear magnetic resonance where the quest, both for a picture of the Hughes cerebrum and for his new identity as a television performer, ends. And, on both counts, ends successfully.

● GREAT STATE OCCASIONS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED (Radio 4, 9.15pm) is a leg-pull from BBC Scotland: an outside broadcast of George IV's visit to Edinburgh 162 years ago. Possibly the peak of Georgian wireless achievement, says the BBC. While not quite the peak of Elizabethan radio fun, Patrick Rayer's diverting half-hour is ambitiously conceived whimsy.

Peter Davalle

Radio 4

- 6.00 News Briefing: Weather. 6.10 News. 6.25 Shipping. 6.30 Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 New summary. 8.45 Prayer for the Day. 8.55, 9.55 Weather. 7.00, 8.00 News. 8.25 Sport. 8.45 88 the Galactic Hero by Harry Hamilton (3.10). 8.57 Weather. 9.00 Music. 9.05 Music: Libby Purves with Studio guests. 9.10 News. 9.15 Question Time. 9.30 The Lamentations and the City. 3. Bristol. With Canon David Lewis. 10.45 Daily Service. 11.00 News. 11.05 Flame City of Africa. Bernard Jackson reports on a recent visit to Zimbabwe. 11.48 Through My Window. The fifth of six programmes in which busy people pause awhile and consider the view from their windows. 12.00 News. 12.05 You and Us. 12.27 Curfew in Autumn by Edward Boyd (2). Thriller, starring David Attenborough. 1.00 The World at One: News. The Anchors. 2.00 News. 2.05 Women's Hour. Includes an interview with Joshua Rifkin, well-known for his performances of the piano of Scarlatti, and a specialist in baroque and Renaissance music. 3.00 Afternoon Theatre: Meckler's Rites, by Richard Hill, and Alan McDonald. A scouse shaggy-dog story is offered by a young Liverpool black to his solicitor as news of a ship at sea and a blind ally. He has been charged with assaulting a police officer with a tin of beans. With Paul Barber as a witness. 3.47 I Got Up Out of My Seat. What happened to one person who attended a Billy Graham rally. 4.00 News. 4.05 Film: The Mind of Mr J.G. Reeder. Stories by Edgar Wallace. The Stalker, harpichord. 5.00 PMc News Magazine. 5.30 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 The Six O'Clock News. 6.30 My Music: A musical panel game.

Radio 3

- 6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Your Midweek Choice: part one. Mozart's Divertimento No. 5, K. 563; Couperin's Pastorale for Harpsichord; Beethoven's Andante and Variations WOO No. 1 (Polya/Mohrman); Castelnovo-Tedesco's Guitar Concerto No 1.
- 7.00 News. 7.05 The Anchors. 7.10 How to be... a Spy. Patrick Hannan gives some career advice. 7.45 Fat Man on the Roman Road - The City of Ghosts and Dragons: York to Durham. The legend of Tom Vernon's eight repeated adventures. 8.15 Anthony Hopkins talking about his new film, The Elephant Man. 8.45 Unfinished Business. Swiss psychiatrist, Dr Elisabeth Kubler-Ross talks about her work with the terminally ill. 9.15 Great State Occasions You May Have Missed. Another in a very occasional series of rare and unlikely treasures from the BBC Sound Archives. Tonight - an occasional broadcast first heard in 1822. 9.45 Kaleidoscope. Topics include the film The Ballad of Narayana; the BBC 2 series The Mind of a Murderer. 10.15 A Book at Bedtime. Three stories: William Trevor. Adapted for Radio 1: Sunday Drinks. Read by Dany's Hawthorne. 10.30 The World Tonight: Headlines. 10.35 The World Tonight: News. 11.30 The Family Firm: From Sheffield to Chicago. A feature about the factories and shops of Yorkshire, where manufacture and commerce are intertwined. 12.00 News. 12.10 Weather. 12.15 Shipping Forecast. 12.30 News. 12.35 The World at One: News. 12.40 News. 12.45 The World at One: News. 12.50 News. 12.55 The World at One: News. 1.00 News. 1.05 The World at One: News. 1.10 News. 1.15 The World at One: News. 1.20 News. 1.25 The World at One: News. 1.30 News. 1.35 The World at One: News. 1.40 News. 1.45 The World at One: News. 1.50 News. 1.55 The World at One: News. 2.00 News. 2.05 The World at One: News. 2.10 News. 2.15 The World at One: News. 2.20 News. 2.25 The World at One: News. 2.30 News. 2.35 The World at One: News. 2.40 News. 2.45 The World at One: News. 2.50 News. 2.55 The World at One: News. 3.00 News. 3.05 The World at One: News. 3.10 News. 3.15 The World at One: News. 3.20 News. 3.25 The World at One: News. 3.30 News. 3.35 The World at One: News. 3.40 News. 3.45 The World at One: News. 3.50 News. 3.55 The World at One: News. 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Thatcher ready to tackle total pit shutdown

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Government has prepared contingency plans for a total pit strike in two weeks. Cabinet papers from the civil emergency sub-committee have gone out to the electricity generating authority in readiness for a complete cessation of coal supplies.

Ministers calculate that tomorrow's special delegate conference in Sheffield of the National Union of Mineworkers will either spread the "rolling strike" through more intensive picketing or halt the industry by a national strike ballot.

Their forward planning for power supply envisages a series of thresholds through which coal and power supply could pass in the next few weeks.

The worst scenario is an all-out strike early next month which would halt the million-tonne a week supply of coal going into the power stations in the Trent Valley, critical to the operation of the national grid.

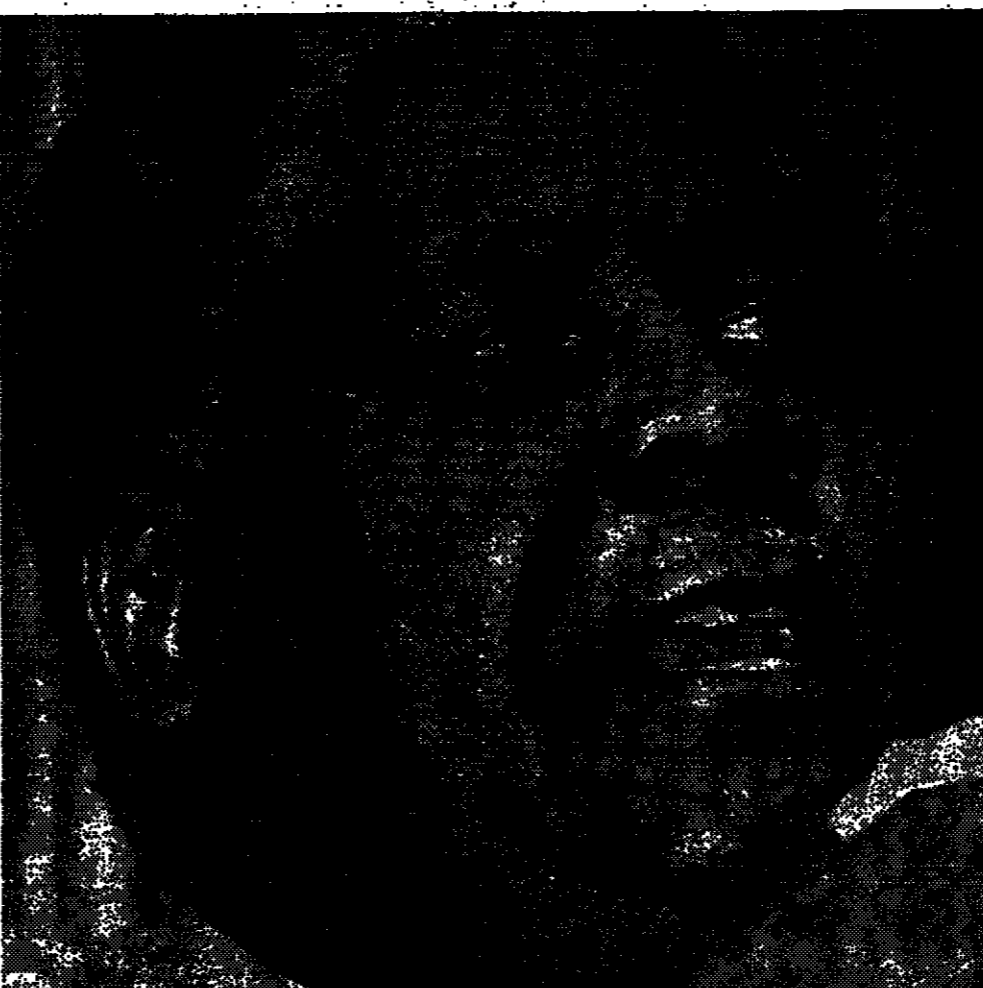
If that happens, the generating authorities calculate that coal stocks in the power stations will last at least 16 and up to 20 weeks. The operating lifetime of the stations could be extended if the oil burn is maximised.

Observer editor vows to stay

By David Cross

Mr Daniel Treford, editor of *The Observer*, is cutting short a holiday in Guernsey to fight an attempt by Mr Roland (Tiny) Rowland, the Sunday newspaper's proprietor, to unseat him.

In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, Mr Treford said that he intended to continue as editor in spite of Mr Rowland's public condemnation of a story he wrote in last Sunday's issue about alleged atrocities by Zimbabwe troops in Matabeleland. He said that he would be back in his office in London today to find out exactly what was going on. He was sure that all the other journalists on *The Observer* would support his cause.



Mr Nkomo at yesterday's press conference (Photograph by Chris Harris).

Church hits back at Mugabe and denies supporting rebels

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Amid the uproar here over foreign press coverage of Zimbabwe, the Catholic Church, regarded by the Government as having contributed significantly to its embarrassment over reports of army brutality in Matabeleland, hit back yesterday against criticism from Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister.

The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace described Mr Mugabe's assertions at the weekend that churchmen in Matabeleland sympathized with guerrillas in the province and worshipped Mr Joshua Nkomo alongside God, as "astounding".

The statement said it should have been clear that the bishops had never been involved in party politics and were concerned only "with protecting innocent people against brutality, the violation of their human rights and starvation".

With journalists prohibited from the curfew area of Matabeleland South, much of the information emerging on the killing, torture, beatings and starvation of civilians has been supplied by church sources.

The latest round of recrimination was directed at foreign correspondents, with Mr Mugabe threatening on Monday to take "very firm steps to curb mischief-making" in British and American newspapers.

The Government has not issued a denial of allegations made by Mr Donald Treford in Sunday's edition of *The Observer*. In a press briefing with Zimbabwean journalists on Monday, in which he disclosed that Mr Tiny Rowland had written to him apologizing and dissociating himself from the article, Mr Mugabe said of Mr Treford: "He asked to see us here. I granted him an interview, the Minister of Information granted him an interview, the Minister of Security granted him an interview and he was invited to come with us to Matabeleland."

"But we understand that he chose to go clandestinely into the curfew area, had his own contacts and then he produced that front-page news item in *The Observer*."

Murder inquiry as children die in fire

Four children burned to death in their home yesterday may have been murdered, police believe.

Detectives set up an incident room to investigate the tragedy which happened when a fire broke out in the three-bedroomed terrace house in Lower Caversham, Reading, Berkshire, in the early hours. Detective Inspector Jim Ackerman confirmed that the incident was being treated as a case of multiple murder.

The children, Stephen Lawlor, aged eight, twin brothers Gary and Patrick, aged seven, and Paul, aged three, were trapped in the blaze, which devastated the house.

Their mother, Mrs Sue Lawlor, aged 28, and her baby daughter, Kelly-Marie, fled to safety by crawling down the stairs through the flames and running to neighbours.

Fireman and ambulance men found Mr Patrick Lawlor, a road construction worker, collapsed on the pavement in front of the house. Police want unconfirmed reports that he had a throat injury and he had been revived by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation before being taken to the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading. A hospital spokesman described his condition as stable.

Commons consider security review

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The House of Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs will next Wednesday consider whether it should investigate any aspect of security in the wake of the Battany case.

Sir Edward Gardiner, the Conservative chairman, said last night that the all-party committee would be meeting after the Easter recess to discuss its next subject for inquiry.

He added: "It comes naturally as a subject for discussion."

But he stressed that he would not wish the committee to probe into matters of security. "I would of course be very willing to see an investigation by the select committee, but only if I could be sure that we were not going to trespass into the field of high security."

Positive vetting procedures, Sir Edward said, could be a possible candidate for review. *The Times* reported yesterday that Battany had not been vetted since he first started work for the Security Service in 1975 - in spite of the fact that all security officers should be subjected to quinquennial review.

The Security Commission reported last year that Prime Minister had received his first vetting clearance by GCHQ in 1968. His quinquennial review, in 1973, failed to discover that Prime Minister had admitted his espionage to his first wife and close friend.

But if the Security Service, which advised the Prime Minister to conduct a fresh vetting investigation of Battany in 1980, the strongest possible criticism will be levelled against the service.

Battany moved to MI5's counter Soviet intelligence desk in the Autumn of 1982 shortly after the Security Service had carried out an inspection of protective security arrangements at the Cheltenham site.

Yet it has now emerged that the Security Service could not even detect Battany from taking a camera into his Curson Street Office.

Commons' reaction to the security lapse was strong yesterday, but MPs can be sure that their concern will be reflected by the Prime Minister.

Tomorrow

Civil words
The Times Profile: Writer, poet and ex-civil servant C. H. Sisson at 70

The write stuff
A. J. P. Taylor's Diary, Randolph Churchill, the latest fiction and children's books reviewed

First innings
Simon Barnes and Richard Streeton keep watch on the first day of the cricket season



£1,300 fine on arm case farmer

The employer of the farmer who carried his severed arm across fields and had it sewn back on in hospital was fined £1,300 and ordered to pay £1,000 court costs yesterday.

Mr Richard Markham, aged 43, was found guilty of five summonses for failing to have safety guards on equipment at his farm in Henton, Oxfordshire. He pleaded not guilty.

Health and safety officials told magistrates at Thame, Oxfordshire, that Mr Markham was previously warned twice about safety regulations.

Mr Markham said he thought the baler that ripped off Mr Roy Tapping's arm was guarded when it was being used. He added: "I don't feel I caused Roy to lose his arm."

Mr Tapping, aged 33, of Bledlow, Buckinghamshire, said afterwards: "I bear no grudge against him. You could say we're pals."

Today's events

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, 2.45.

Princess Anne, is entertained to luncheon by the Salt Training Association at Packington Hall, Coventry, 12.30; and later visits the Sherriff Project in Erdington, Birmingham Dinner at Trinity College, Cambridge, 2.55. Her Royal Highness then visits the British Road Services Group's Driver Training School, at Erdington, Birmingham, 3.50.

New exhibition

In the evening Princess Anne, president of the British Olympic Association attends a concert at the Dunstable Queensway Hall, Bedford, 7.

Paintings by Bert Richards, William Sever, Jim Wilson and Robin Smith, Macaulay Art Gallery, Rossett Park, Ayr, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until May 13).

Constructivism in Poland - at the Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, W12, Tues to Sun 12 to 8pm. (Until May 20).

A Mixed Exhibition

Silver from the family collection, Burghley House, Stamford, Lincs, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Oct 7).

Images of India, featuring a wealth of 19th century photographs from the Isaac and Howard Ricketts collection, National Museum of Photography, Prince Consort Road, West Yorks: Tues to Sat 12 to 6, Sun 2.30 to 6, closed Mon (until Apr 29).

Works on Paper by John Bellamy, Pier Arts Centre, Stranmillis, Orkney, Tues to Sat 10.30 to 12.30, 1.30 to 5, Sat 2 to 5, closed Mon (until Apr 28).

The papers

The Daily Mirror says: "What happened at the Libyan Embassy yesterday was bloody and barbaric because the people involved are bloody and barbaric. They are fascists who live only for their crazed leader, Colonel Gaddafi."

Gaddafi's killers carry their hatred into the capital of the civilized world. When the shooting and bombing start, it is the local police who are in the front line, sometimes risking their lives. And over a more senseless death of a British police officer than that of PC Yvonne Fletcher?

Roads

Wales on West A30/35/A3036: various road works in Longborton area, Dorset, A30: North Road, Barnstable, Devon, single lane temporary lights signals, Arlington (between Arlington and Glyn) improvement work, road closed. A55: (Cwyd) Chester, to Colwyn Bay, Ewloe flyover construction, heavy by-pass roadworks, temporary lights signals, A68: (Northumberland) Elishaw, eight miles NE of Bellingham, roadworks. A1: Broughton, north of Alnwick, Northumberland, temporary lights signals, between junctions 32 and 33 (M55 and Lancaster) Lancashire, contraflow.

Weather forecast

A moist SW airstream covers Britain with troughs of low pressure crossing N and central areas.

6am to midnight

London, SE England, E Anglia, Channel Islands: Dry with some sunny intervals, wind S light occasionally moderate, max temp 55° (13°).

SW, W, NE Scotland, Glasgow, Can Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: Rain at times, hill fog, winds mainly S to SE, moderate to brisk, locally strong at first, max temp 50° (10°).

Lighting-up time

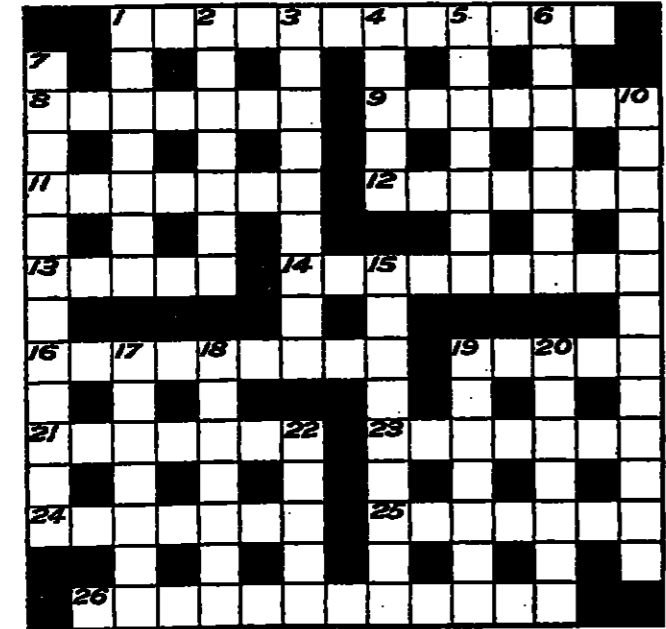
London 6.30 pm to 6.25 am (BST) and 6.30 pm to 6.25 am (GMT) on 18th and 19th April. Passengers 5.51 pm to 5.51 am.

High tides

Today

Location	AM	MT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.17	7.5	4.43	7.4
Southampton	4.52	7.5	4.18	7.7
Cardiff	1.17	5.4	1.41	5.6
Swansea	1.17	5.4	1.41	5.6
Cardiff	1.17	5.4	1.41	5.6
Swansea	1.17	5.4	1.41	5.6
Cardiff	1.17	5.4	1.41	5.6
Swansea	1.17	5.4	1.41	5.6
Cardiff	1.17	5.4	1.41	5.6
Swansea	1.17	5.4	1.41	5.6

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,408



- ACROSS
- 1 Marshall Hall vis-a-vis his siblings? No, their spouses (7-2-3).
 - 2 Festival with name like a native of (14-7).
 - 3 But they don't intimidate only male champions? (7).
 - 4 Falls into a river once more on the way back? (7).
 - 5 They objectively take in mineral aggregate? Prove it! (7).
 - 6 Vocalize in Co Mayo delicatessen (5).
 - 7 Central Asian follows in exhausted state (9).
 - 8 Rogues who are against the chief Muslim secret agents (9).
 - 9 Find a drink in the bush (5).
 - 10 Such indicators are almost unnecessary (7).
 - 11 A pupil in this situation should remain alert (7).
 - 12 Lively bird returned and took food (7).
 - 13 Head of Philosophy lay about this proposition (7).
 - 14 Meddling with the signals? (12).
- DOWN
- 1 Bird has a way to understand sculpture (7).
 - 2 Work garment, taken as a whole (7).
 - 3 Magyar form of Rugby Union in Ghana (9).

Exhibitions in progress

Images of India, featuring a wealth of 19th century photographs from the Isaac and Howard Ricketts collection, National Museum of Photography, Prince Consort Road, West Yorks: Tues to Sat 12 to 6, Sun 2.30 to 6, closed Mon (until Apr 29).

Works on Paper by John Bellamy, Pier Arts Centre, Stranmillis, Orkney, Tues to Sat 10.30 to 12.30, 1.30 to 5, Sat 2 to 5, closed Mon (until Apr 28).

Robert Medley, paintings, photographs two exhibitions at Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke St, Oxford: Tues to Sat 10.30 to 12.30, 1.30 to 5, closed Mon (until May 20).

Nineteenth and 20th century Scottish paintings, Fine Art Society, 134 Blythswood St, Glasgow, Strathclyde: Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 1, closed Sun (until Apr 30).

Plant Hall Gallery of English Costume, the most important collection of English Costume outside London, City Art Gallery, Mosley street, Leeds: Tues to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun and Monday (until Sep 28).

Dieties of Roman Cotswolds, Corinium Museum, Cirencester, Glos: Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (closed Mon).

Turners from the Tate, Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain St, Birmingham: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until May 27).

Anthropological Collections in Cambridge, Adams Gallery, Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington St, (until May 6).

Cross Section: paintings and drawings by Chris Orr, two exhibitions at Artspace Galleries, 21 Castle St, Aberdeen: Mon to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun (until April 25).

A Journey to India, paintings and book by Ellen Neustein, and Just Edinburgh, a selection of new and original prints, two exhibitions at the Netherlands Arts Centre, 43 High Street, Edinburgh: Tues to Sat 10 to 4, closed Sun and Mon (until April 28).

Works by Victorian Foot and Bill Wright Scottish Gallery, 94 George St, Edinburgh: Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 9 to 1, closed Sun (until May 2).

Highland Landmarks - photographs of the Highland landscape by Michael Edwards, Museum and Art Gallery, Inverness: Mon to Sat 9 to 5, closed Sun (until April 30).

Freshwater Biological Association, Dorset County Museum, High Street West, Dorchester: Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5, closed Sun (until April 30).

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.53	1.53
Belgium Fr	77.25	77.25
Canada \$	1.28	1.28
Denmark Kr	13.57	13.57
France FF	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	3.37	3.37
Greece Dr	154.80	154.80
Hong Kong \$	11.20	10.90
India Rs	47.25	47.25
Italy Lira	2395.00	2395.00
Japan Yen	335.90	335.90
Netherlands Gld	4.40	4.18
Norway Kr	11.25	10.69
Portugal Esc	196.00	184.00
South Africa Rd	2.80	2.80
Spain Ptas	216.50	205.50
Sweden Kr	11.60	11.02
Switzerland Fr	3.23	3.06
USA \$	1.53	1.53
Yugoslavia Dnr	133.00	175.00

Anniversaries

Births: Louis Adolphe Thiers, first president (1871-73) of the Third Republic of France, March 15, 1797; George Henry Lewes, critic and scientist, London, 1817.

Deaths: John Fowles, author of *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, London, 1965; Albert Einstein, Nobel laureate 1921, Princeton, New Jersey, 1955.

The Republic of Ireland Act 1948 came into force, 1949.

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London

	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Vis
Yesterday	12.0	11	100	10
Today	12.0	11	100	10
Tomorrow	12.0	11	100	10

Around Britain

	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Vis
London	12.0	11	100	10
Manchester	12.0	11	100	10
Birmingham	12.0	11	100	10
Cardiff	12.0	11	100	10
Edinburgh	12.0	11	100	10
Glasgow	12.0	11	100	10
Liverpool	12.0	11	100	10
Newcastle	12.0	11	100	10
Nottingham	12.0	11	100	10
Oxford	12.0	11	100	10
Sheffield	12.0	11	100	10
Southampton	12.0	11	100	10
Stoke	12.0	11	100	10
Wolverhampton	12.0	11	100	10
Wrexham	12.0	11	100	10

Weather forecast details, including maps and additional data.